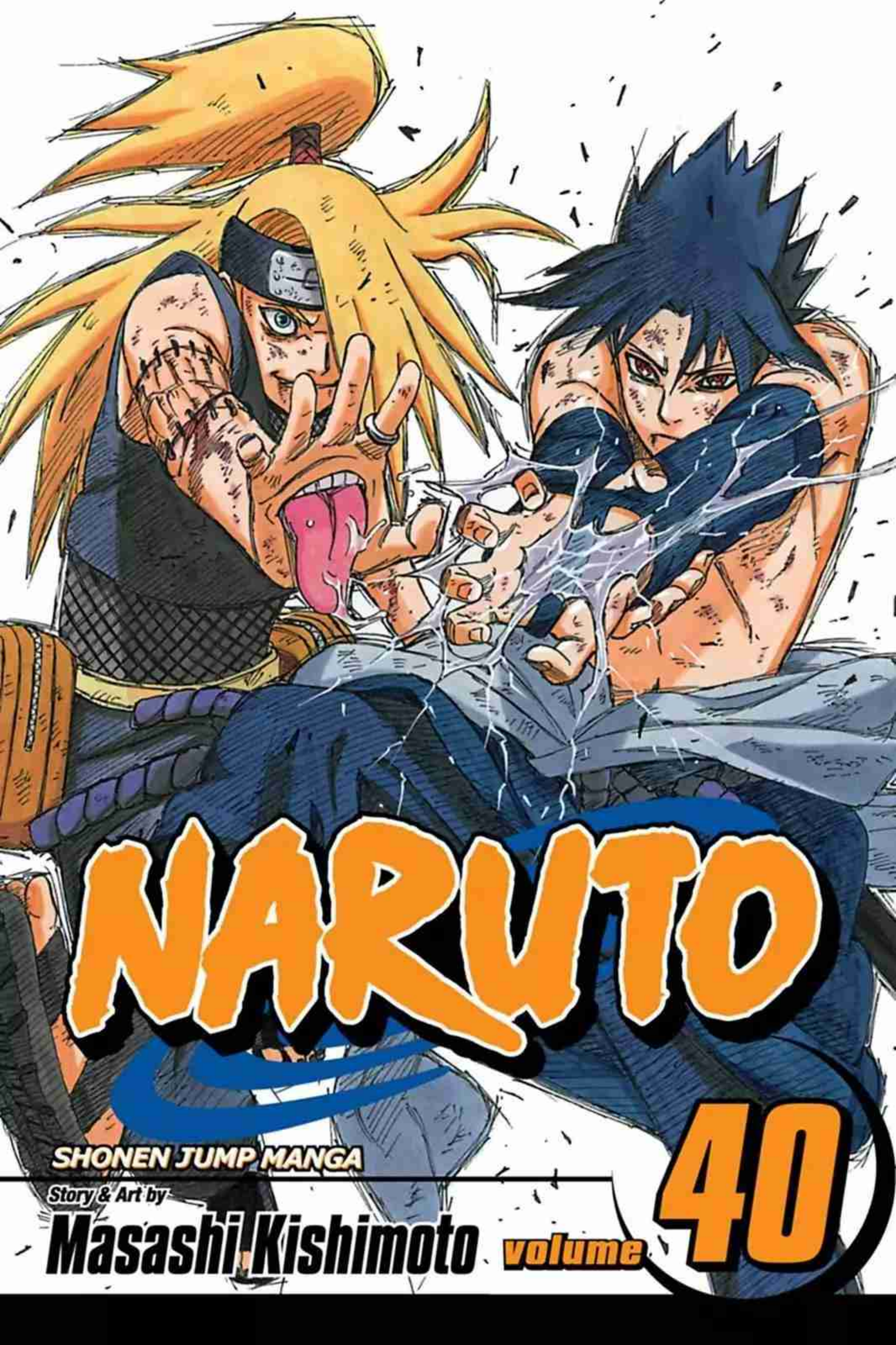
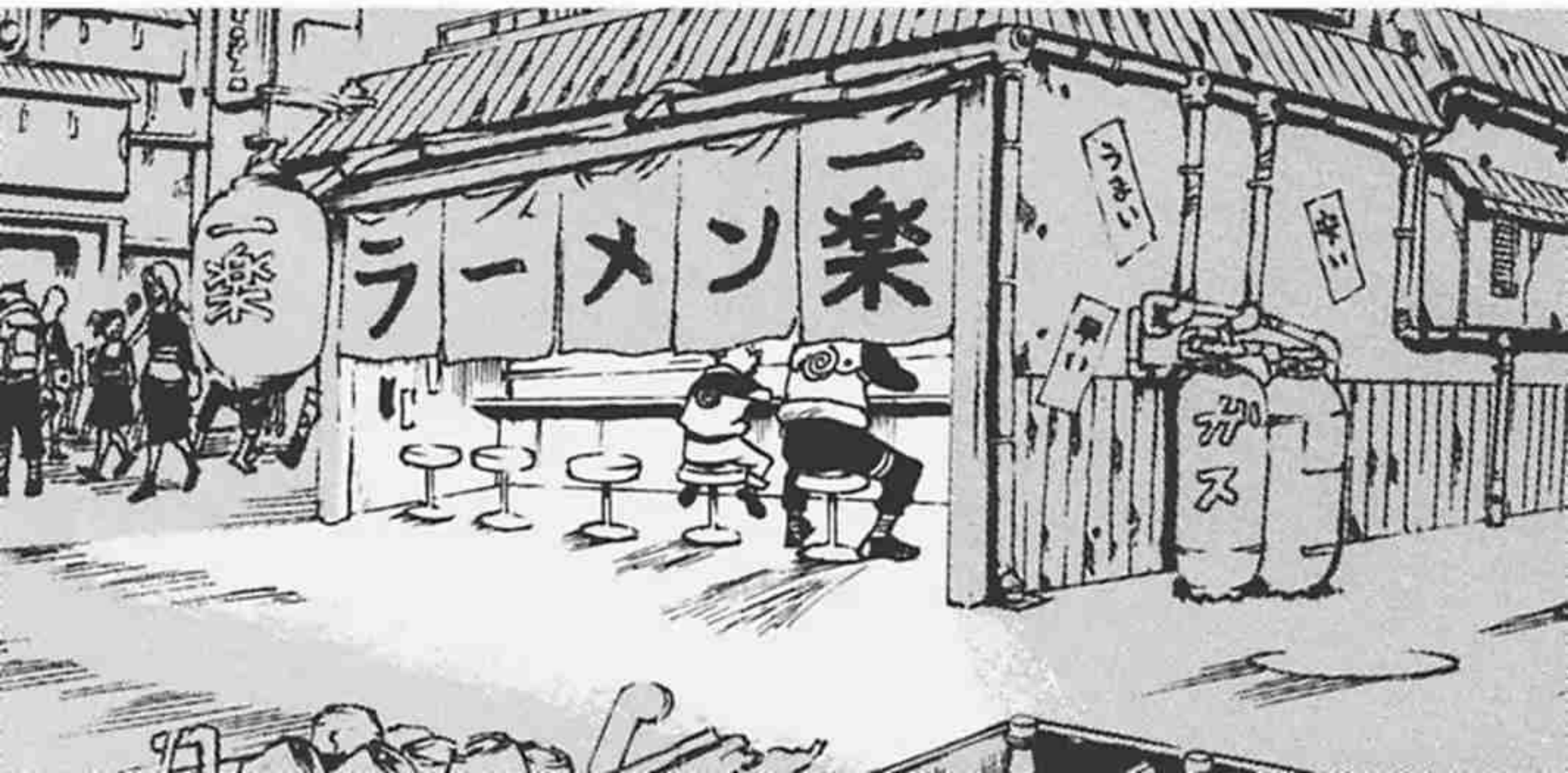

NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 40

Nostalgic radio-controlled plastic model vehicles have recently made a comeback, just a bit smaller and easier to operate! So cool, I can't stand it!! The most popular models are, as before, buggy types like the Hornet and Mighty Frog! ...Please bring back my previous favorite, Pajero, too, Mr. Tamiya!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2007

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



NARUTO VOL. 40
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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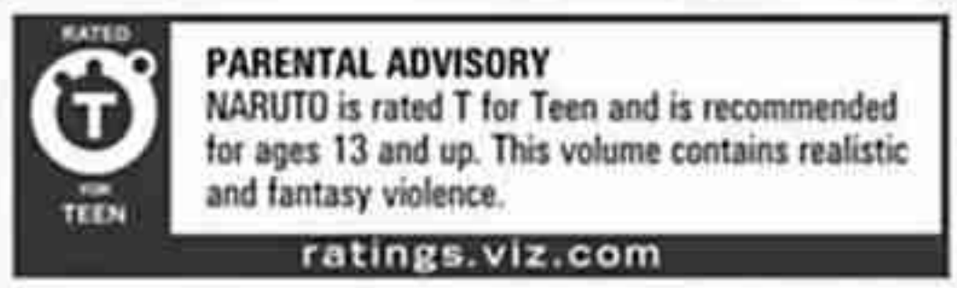
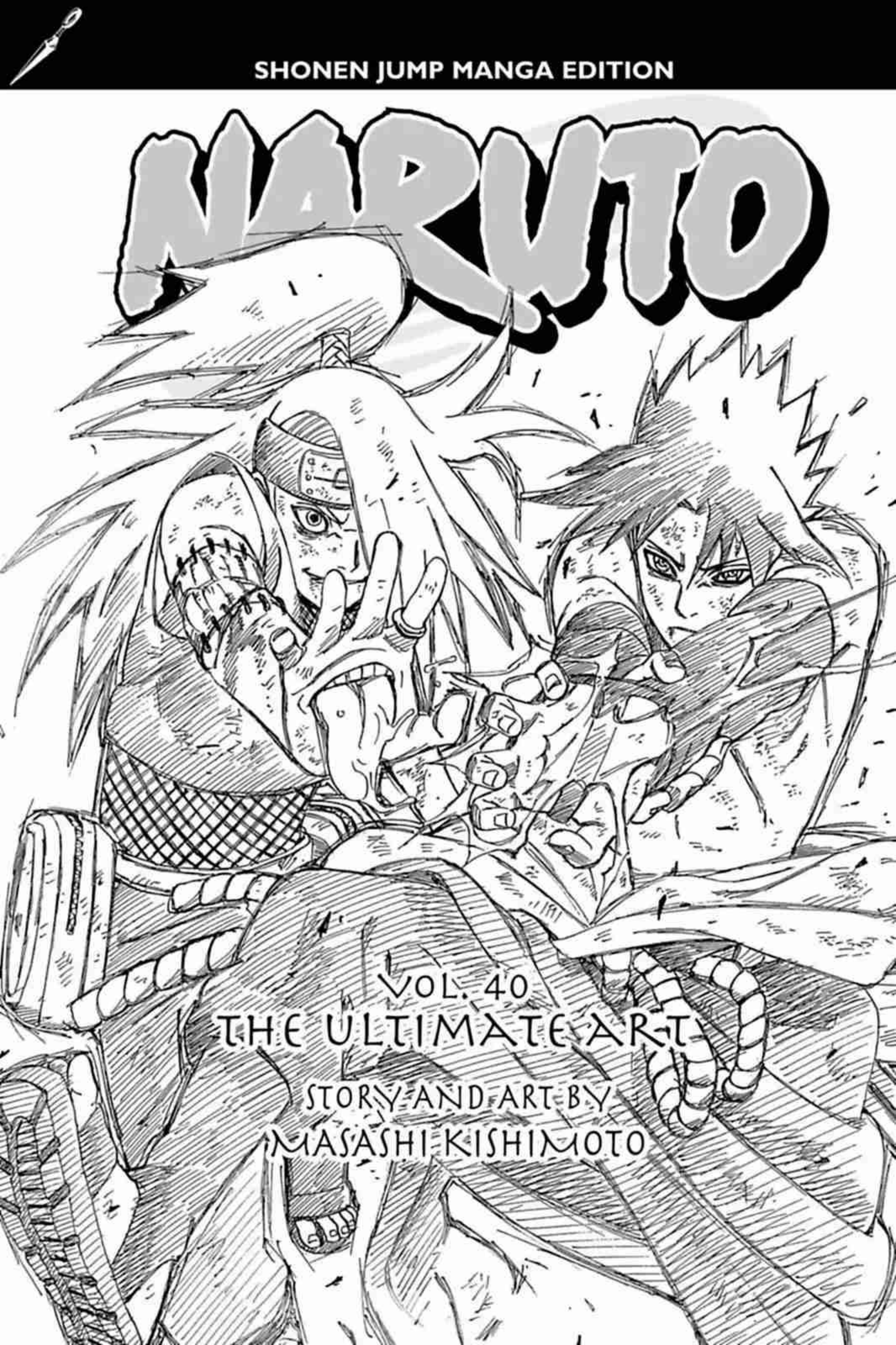
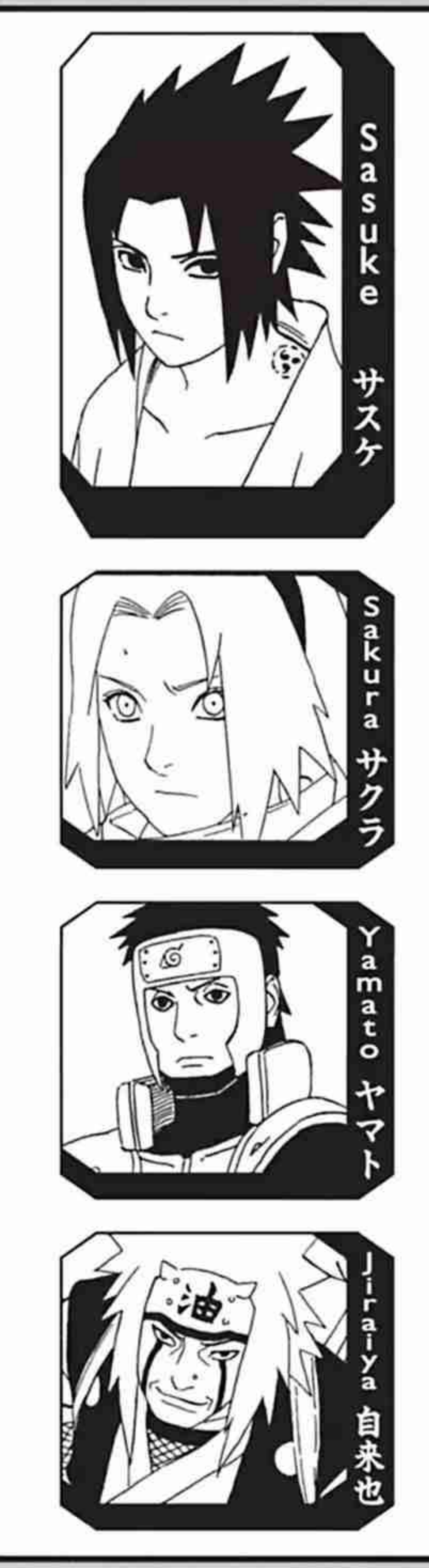


SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION



CHARACTERS


Naruto ナルト
Sasuke サスケ
Kakashi カカシ
Sakura サクラ
Sai サイ
Yamato ヤマト
Tsunade 綱手
Jiraiya 自来也
油

THE STORY SO FAR...

Once the bane of the Konohagakure Ninja Academy, Uzumaki Naruto now serves dutifully among the ranks of the Konoha shinobi—an illustrious group of ninja sworn to protect their village from the forces of evil seeking to destroy it from without and within…

After his former classmate, Uchiha Sasuke, is seduced by the evil Orochimaru, Naruto makes it his personal mission to find and save his friend from the darkness growing inside him. Unfortunately, Sasuke doesn't want to be saved. All he wants is revenge on the one person he hates most in the world… the person he blames for the murder of his parents… his older brother, Uchiha Itachi.

Assembling his shinobi cell, The Hebi, Sasuke sets out to find and kill his brother. But his quest for vengeance soon brings him into conflict with Deidara and Tobi—members of the insidious organization known as the Akatsuki. Though Sasuke quickly gains the upper hand with the formidable power of his Sharingan, Deidara tips the scales by unveiling his latest masterpiece of destruction…

NARUTO

VOL. 40

THE ULTIMATE ART

CONTENTS

NUMBER 360: THE C4 KARURA 7

NUMBER 361: ACHILLES' HEEL...!! 25

NUMBER 362: THE ULTIMATE ART!! 43

NUMBER 363: SASUKE'S DEATH...!! 61

NUMBER 364: THE TARGET...!! 78

NUMBER 365: PURSUE ITACHI! 99

NUMBER 366: BROTHERS 119

NUMBER 367: ITACHI AND SASUKE 137

NUMBER 368: INTEL 155

NUMBER 369: REGARDING PAIN 173

Number 360: The C4 Karura

Number 360: DOOM

The C4 Karura

FLAP

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM ME?! AND MY C4 KARURA?

YOU'RE GOING TO RUN?!

BOOM

BOOM

SNAP

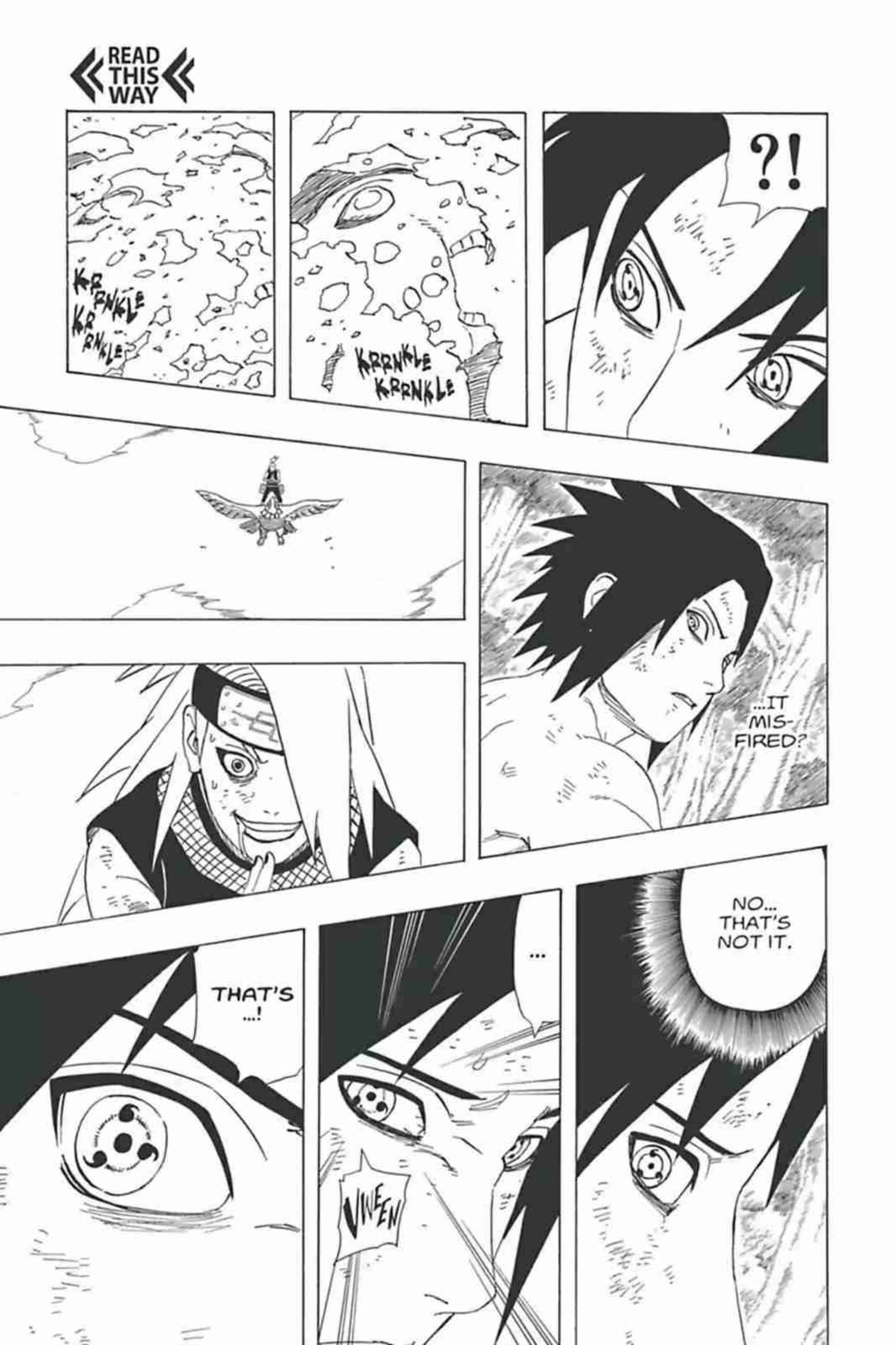
SNAP

SHOOM

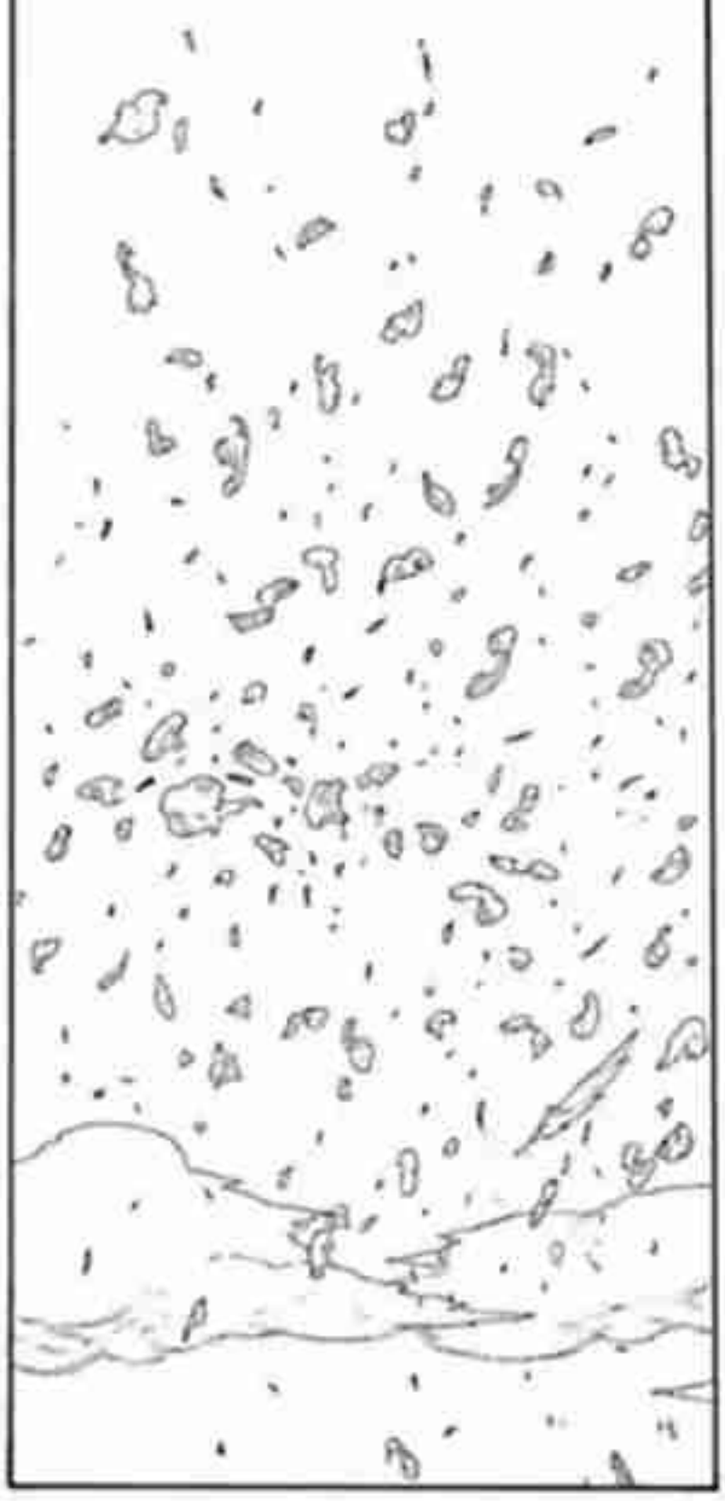
HOO

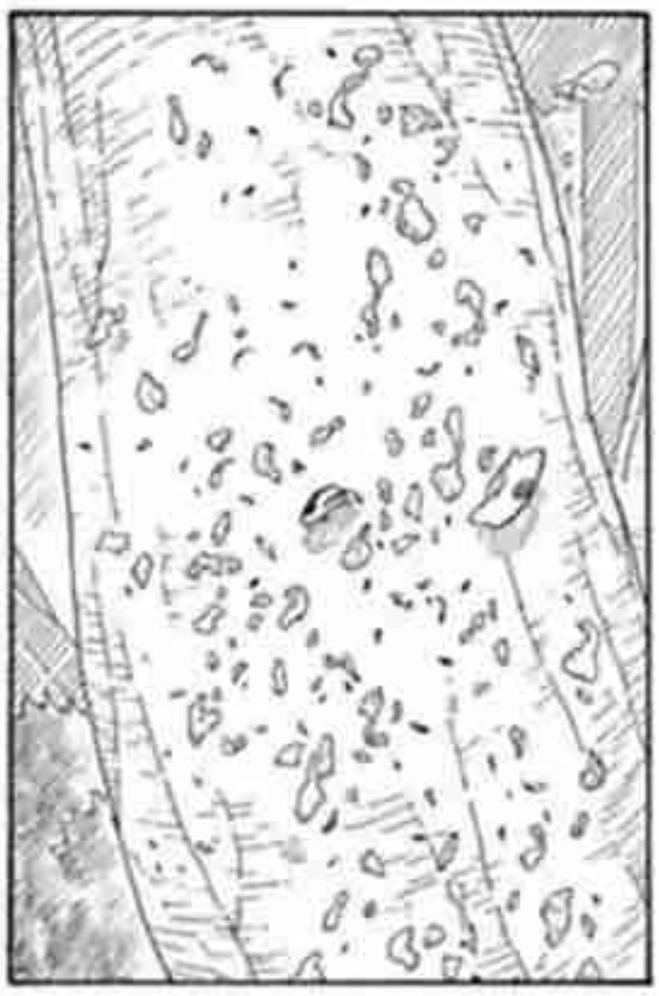
FWP

...OOM
MMM...
POOF!


READ THIS WAY
KRRNKLE KRRNKLE
KRRNKLE KRRNKLE
?!
...IT MIS-FIRED?
NO... THAT'S NOT IT.
...
VINEEN
THAT'S ...!

HA HA! I WIN!!

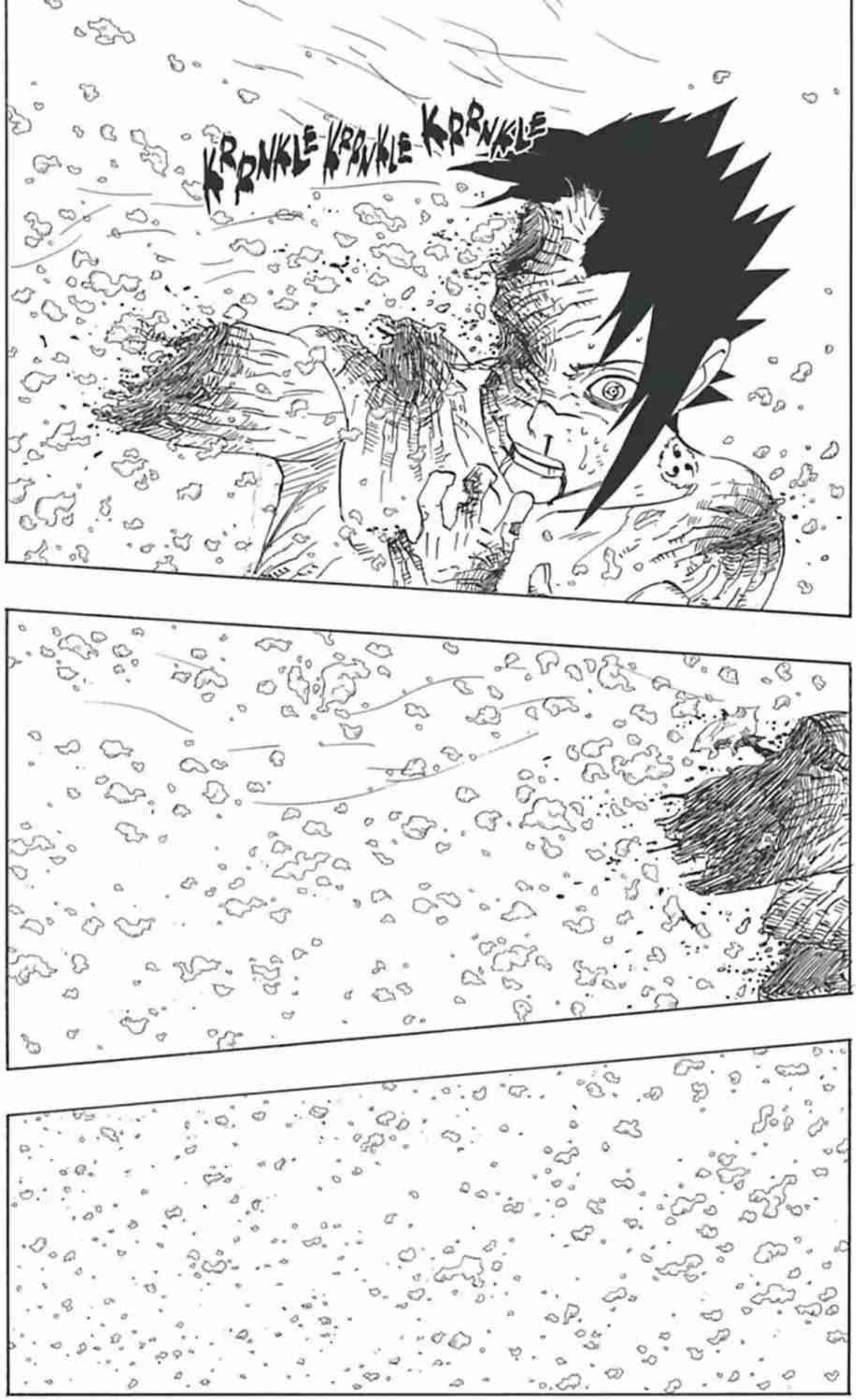




SAYO-
NARA,
SASUKE!

KRRNKLE
KRRNKLE
GAH...

KRRNKLE KRRNKLE KRRNKLE...
NO WAY... THAT'S ...
KRRNKLE

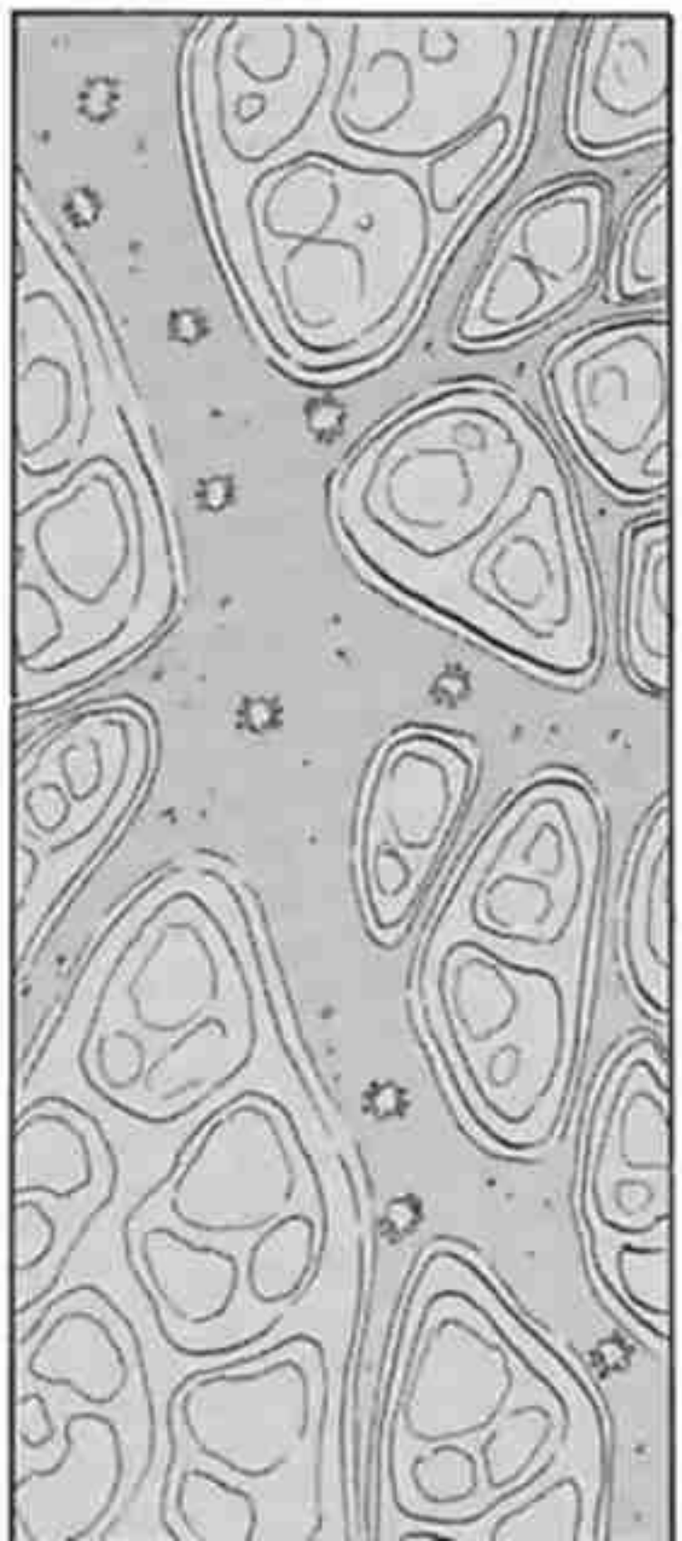

KRRNKLE KRRNKLE KRRNKLE

HMMM!
HMMM!
HMMM!
NOW THIS IS MY GREATEST MASTER-PIECE!!

HMMM.

THE C4 KARURA: SUPER-TEENY, NANO-SIZED EXPLO-SIVES...

STOM



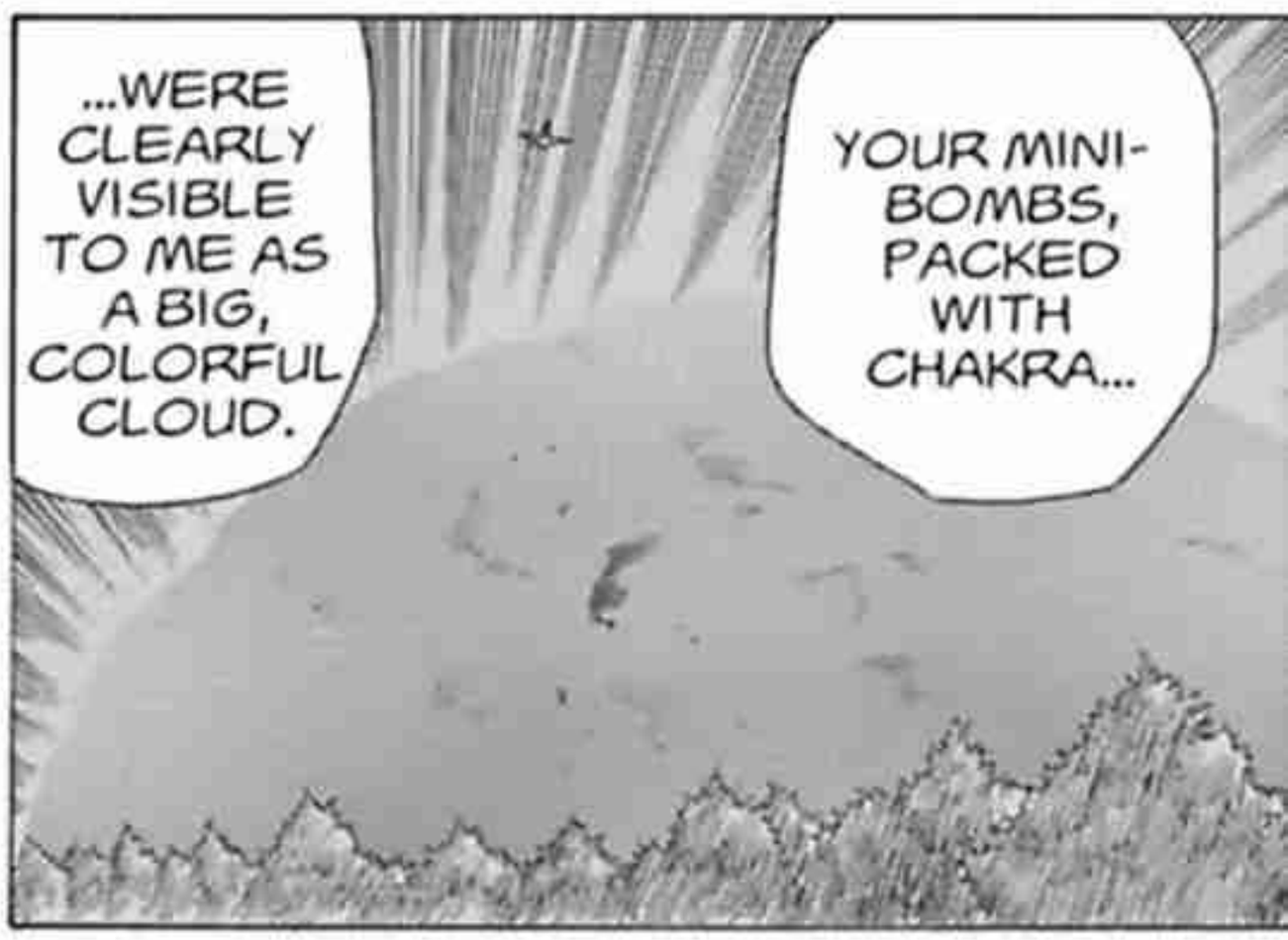
THE MINI-BOMBS THEN IMPLANT THEM-SELVES WITHIN THE BODIES OF ANY AND ALL CREATURES THAT INHALE THEM...

...OOM
...FORMED FROM THE RUPTURING OF THE GIGANTO DEIDARA, THE BLAST-WAVE SCAT-TERING THEM FAR AND WIDE...
POO

READ THIS WAY
A FEARSOME JUTSU, INDEED.
AND WHEN THEY EXPLODE, THE MULTIPLE CELLULAR-LEVEL EXPLOSIONS DESTROY THEIR VICTIMS FROM THE INSIDE OUT...
SNAP
I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER TO THANK ITACHI... HEH HEH HEH...
...
MY ART W...
HEH HEH... I WON, I WON!!
PLINK

ドン
ドガッ

SEEMS YOU'VE USED UP ALL YOUR CHAKRA... YOUR REACTION TIME IS SLOW.



BUT... I SAW YOU DIE FROM THE C4...
KRRNALE KRRNALE KRRNALE

GRR...

GAH...
HEH HEH... SO... IT WAS JUST AS I THOUGHT...

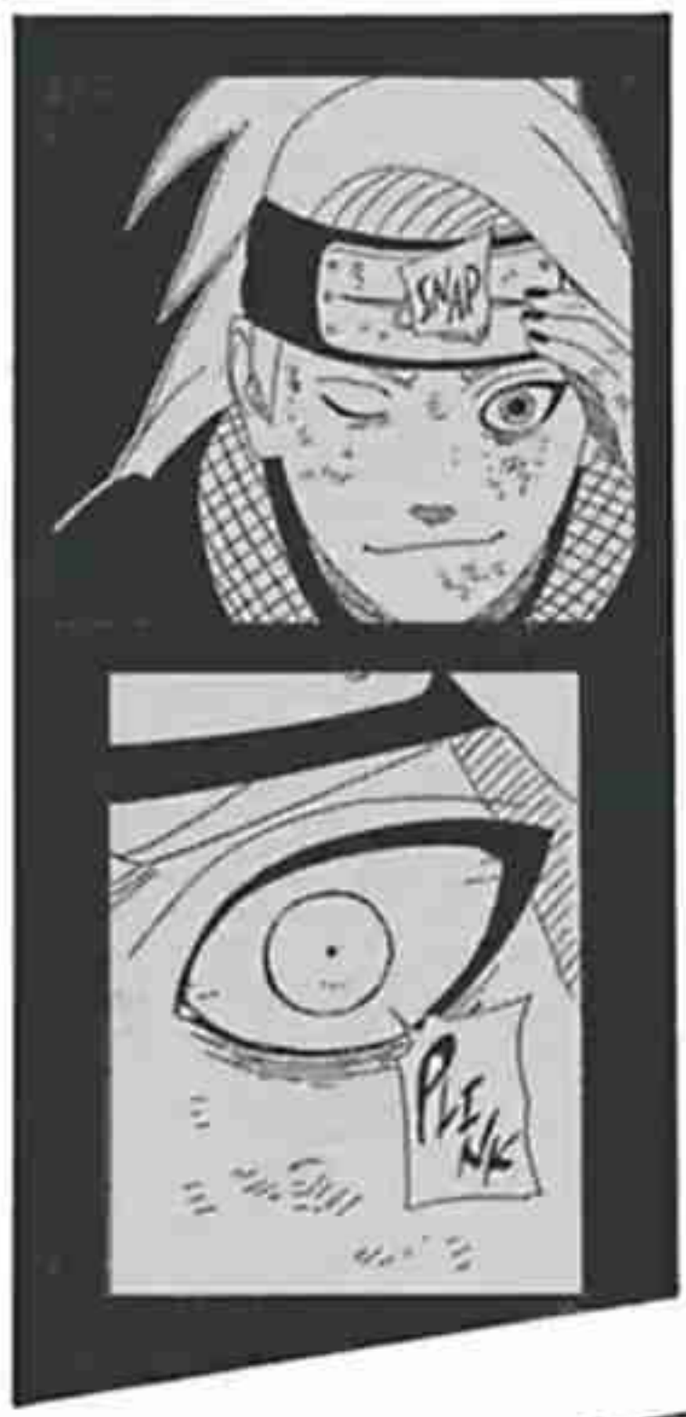
THAT WAS MY GENJUTSU.

?

...TO THANK ITACHI...
...LIKE I SAID, I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER...

NOW, TELL ME-WHERE IS ITACHI?!
I DELIBERATELY AVOIDED STRIKING A VITAL SPOT.

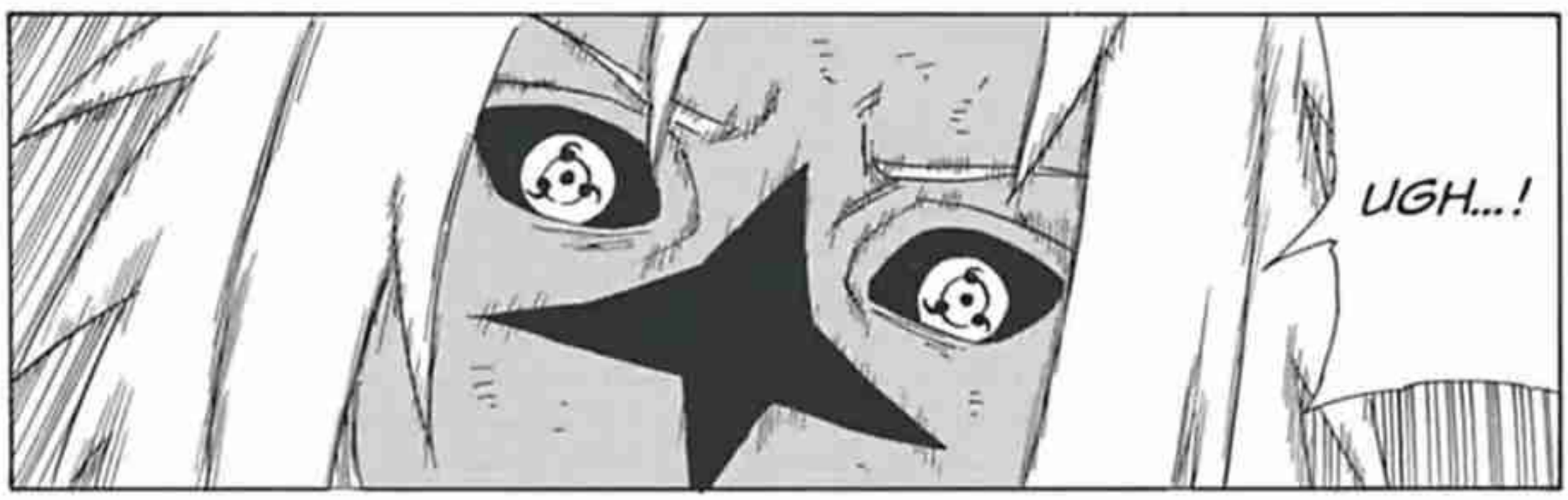
?!
SUSUH
!
A... CLAY DOPPEL-GANGER ?!
YOU'RE JUST LIKE ITACHI. DID YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR THAT SAME TRICK TWICE... HMMM?!
I FIGURED YOU WOULD PERFORM A GENJUTSU.


SNAP
PLINK

...JUST SO I COULD BREAK THAT VERY GEN-JUTSU!!

EVER SINCE THE DAY I FIRST FACED ITACHI, I'VE TRAINED MY LEFT EYE TO NULLIFY THE SHARINGAN...

HOW DO YOU LIKE A DIRECT C4 ATTACK?!
THIS TIME, IT'S OVER FOR REAL!!


UGH...!

SNAP

Number 361: Achilles' Heel...!!

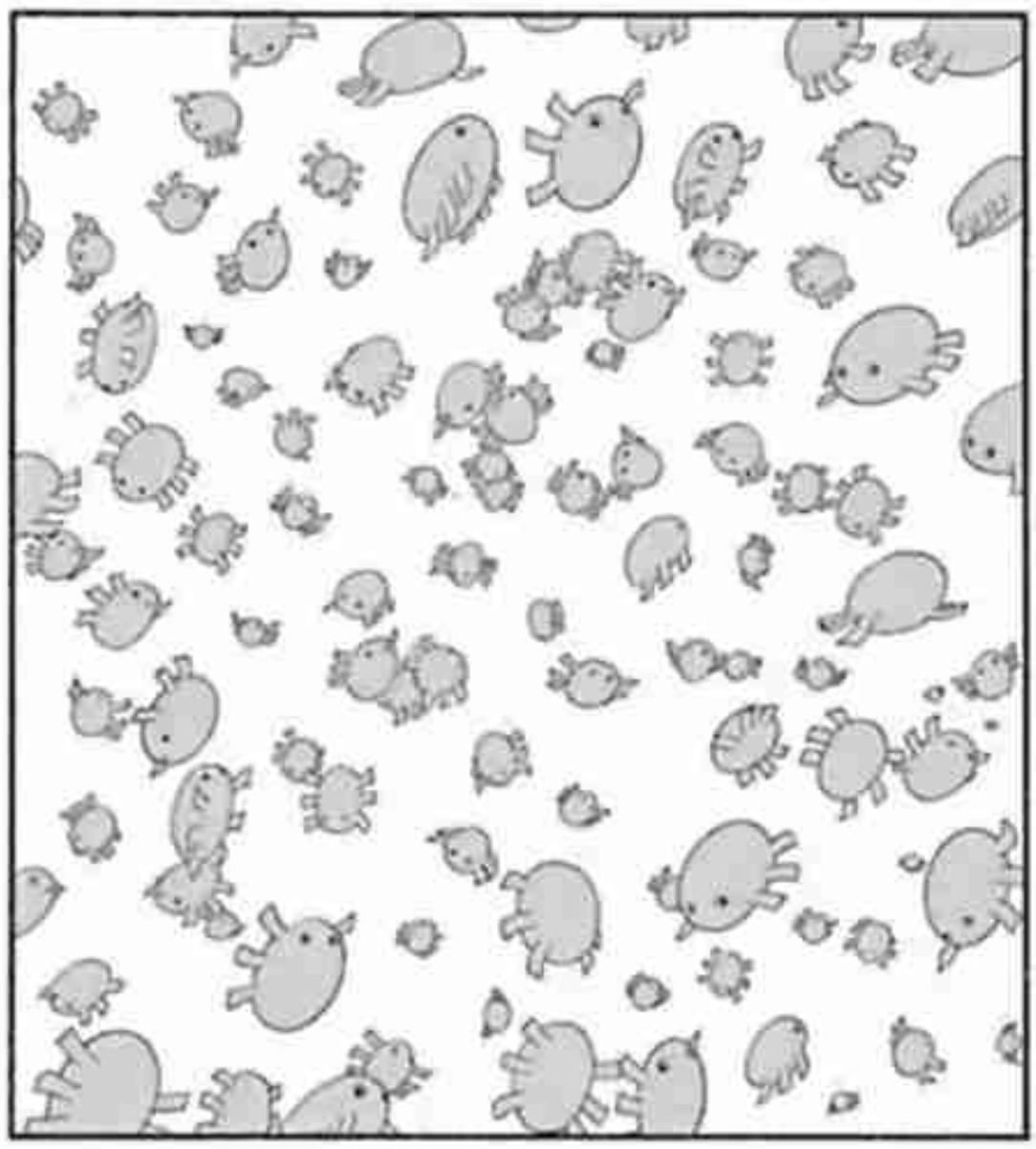
ARGH ...!

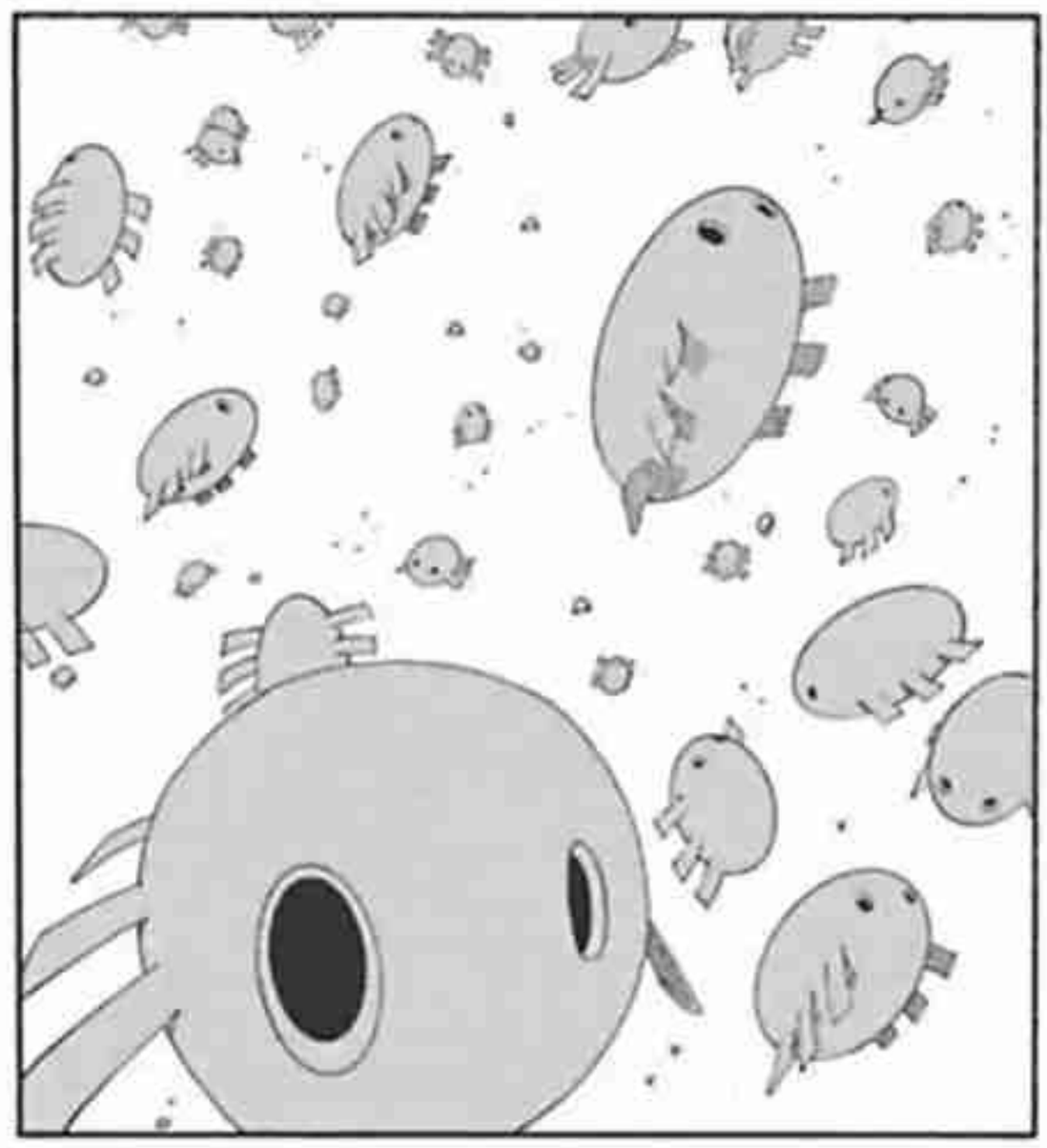
RRRRNT

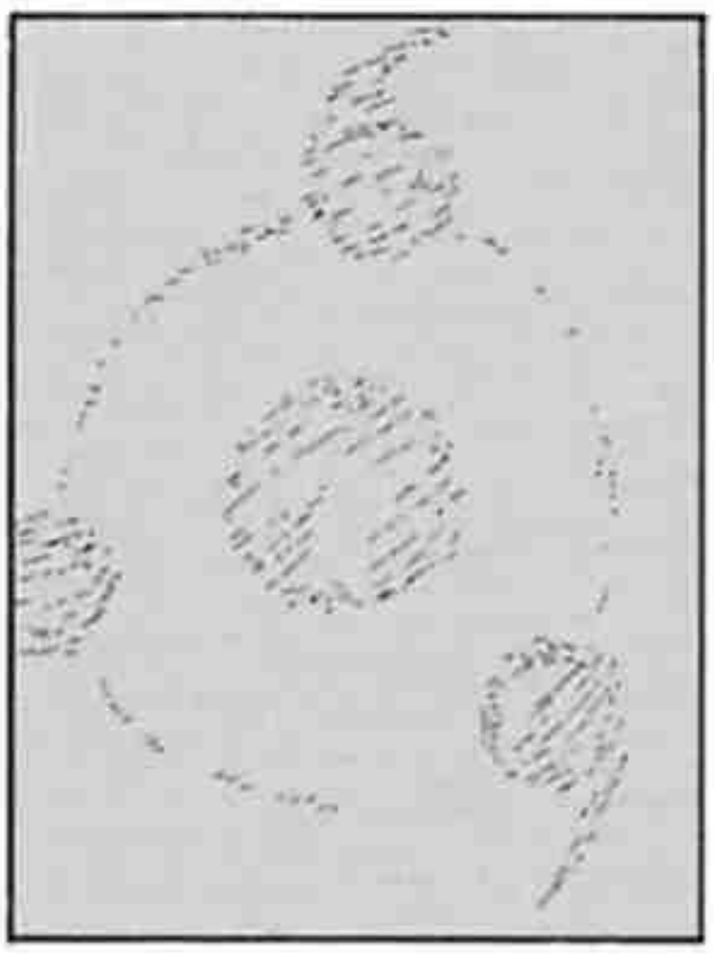
ZZH

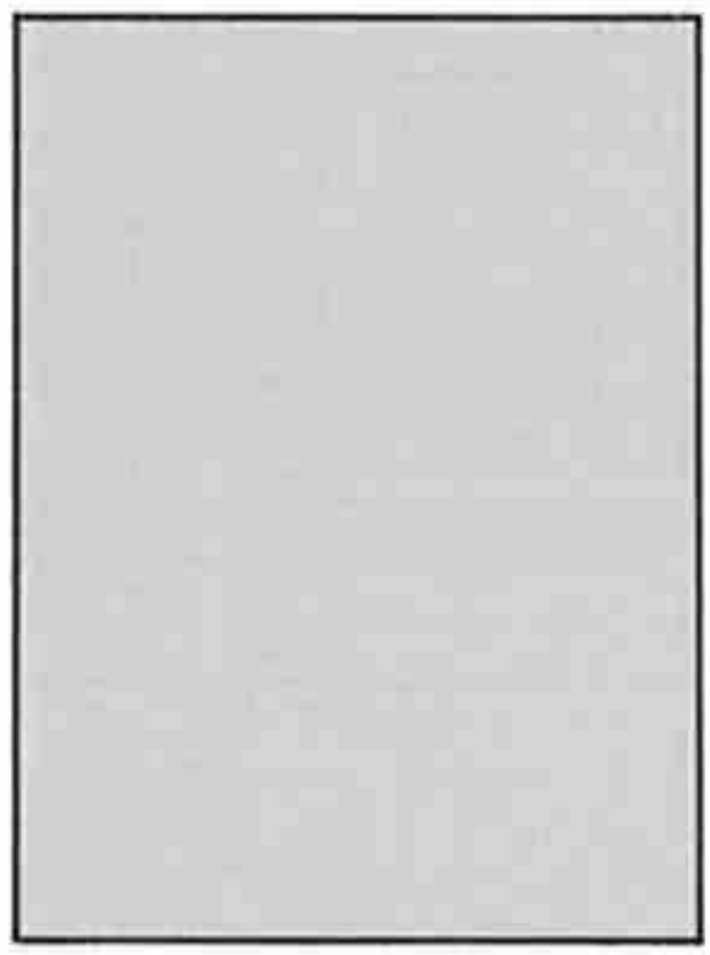
Number 361: Achilles' Heel...!!

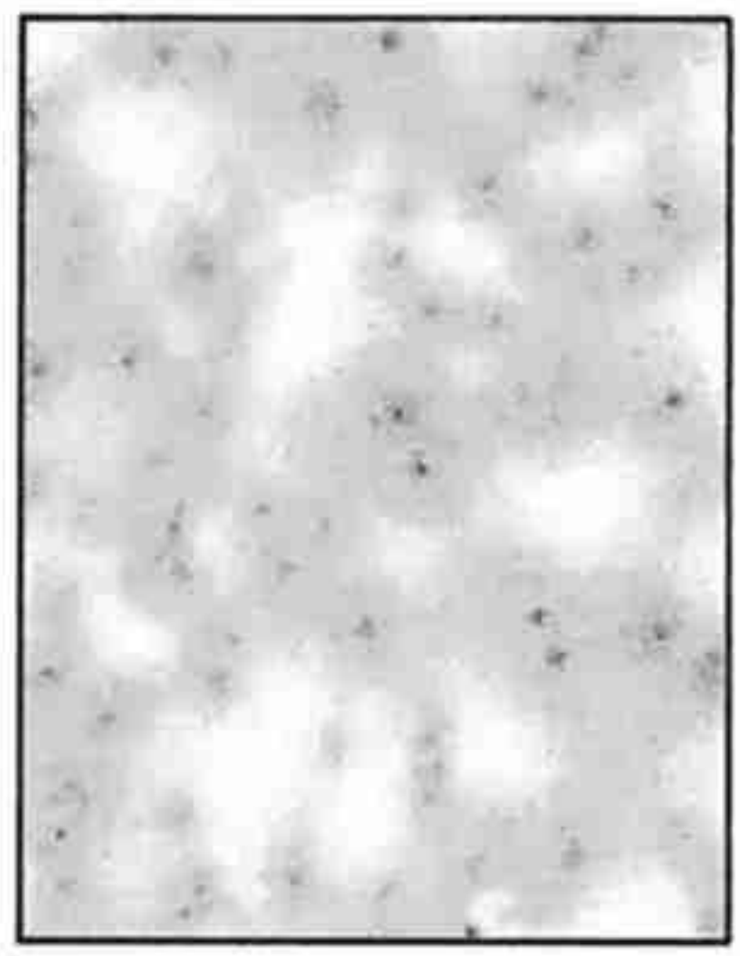
READ
THIS
WAY



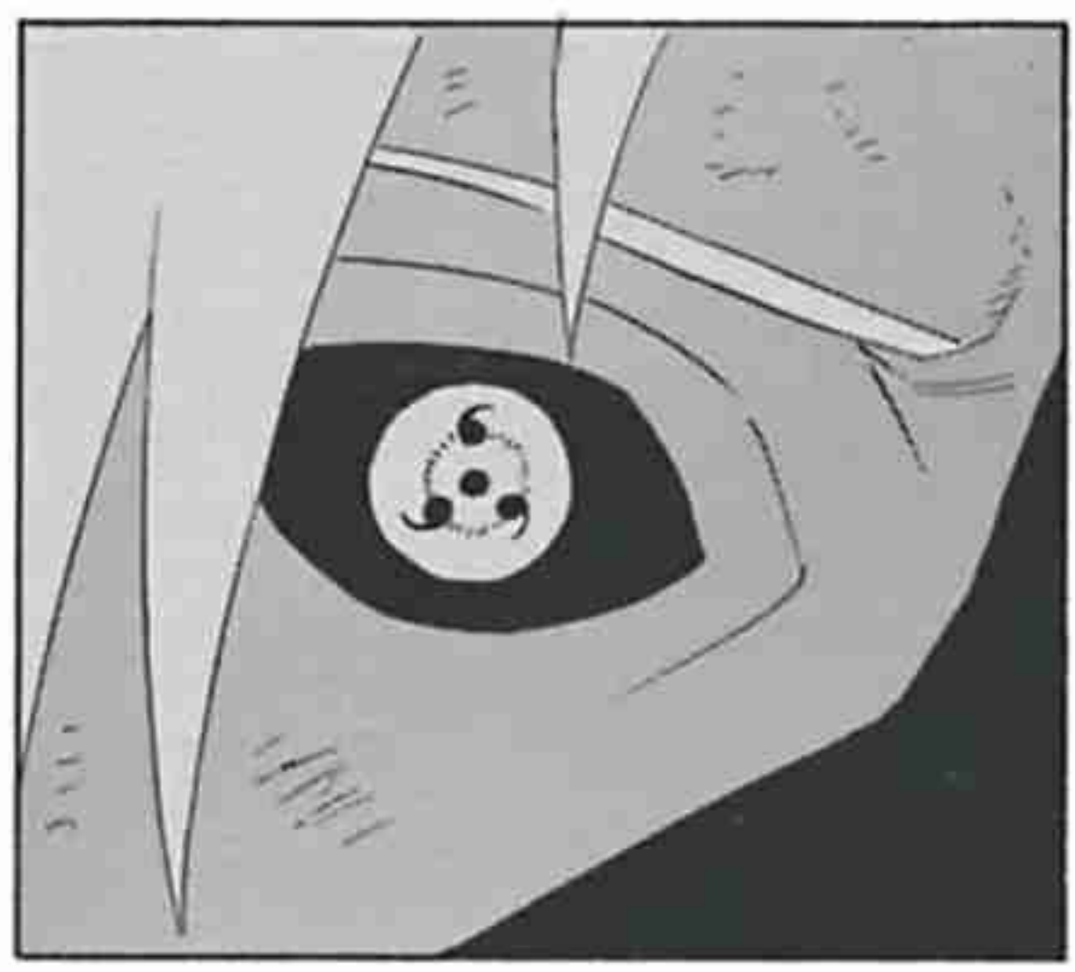








JUST AS I THOUGHT ...



THE INSIDE OF THIS MODEL IS JUST LIKE THE OTHER ONE.

FULL OF INVISIBLE C4 BOMBS...

OW!

KRRNKLE

CHOMP CHOMP

FAP

FLIP

ALMOST USED UP ALL MY CHAKRA... THIS PIECE IS NO GOOD...

GAH...

...THAT HURTS...

BLEH

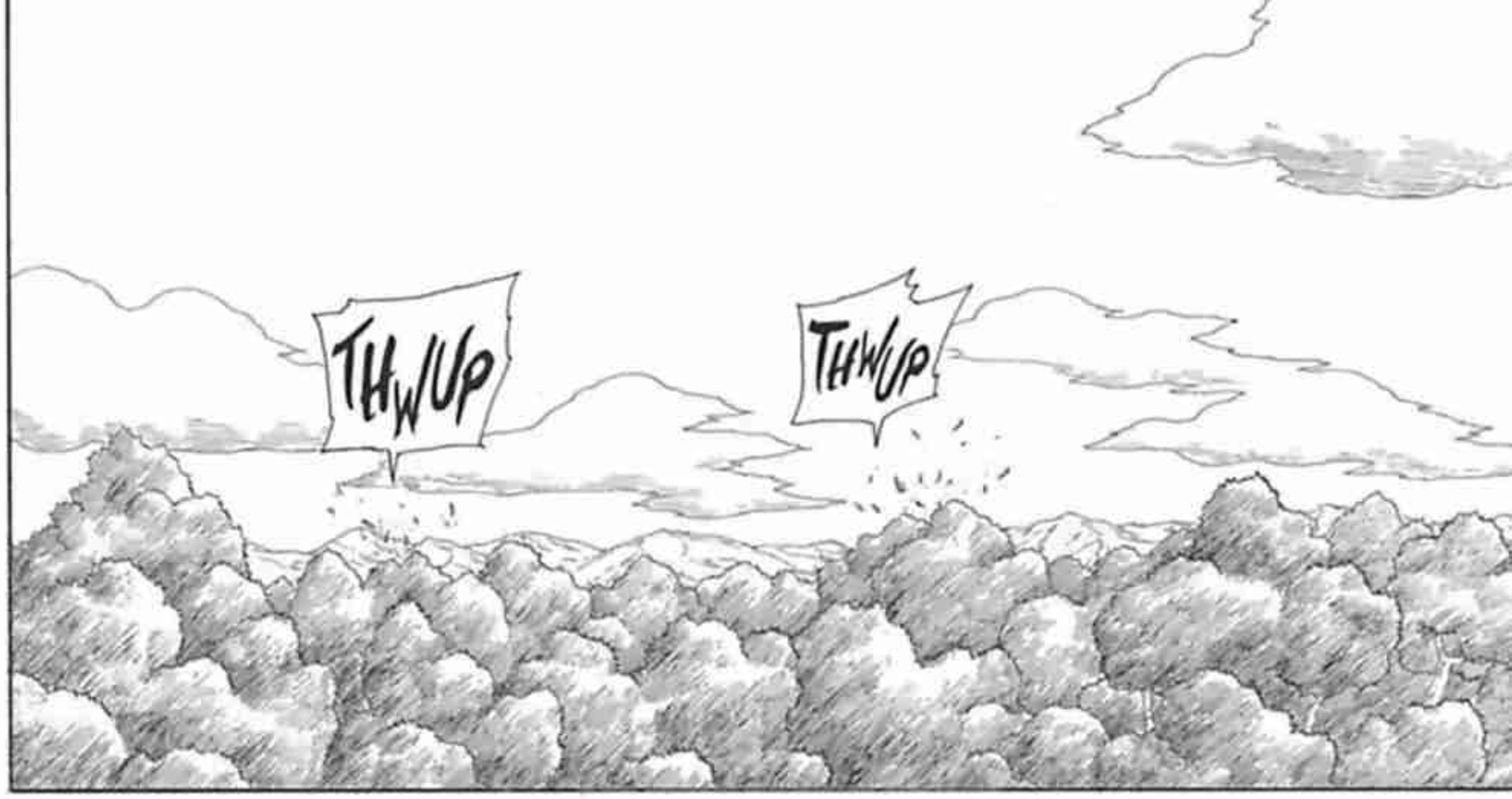
PLOP

READ THIS WAY

FLAP

HE USED WHAT'S LEFT OF HIS LIGHTNING BLADE...
NOW WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO... HMMM?!
HUF
HUF
FWP

YOUR LIGHTNING BLADE ATTACK WILL NEVER REACH ME IN TIME FROM THAT DISTANCE!
GAME OVER!


THWUP
THWUP

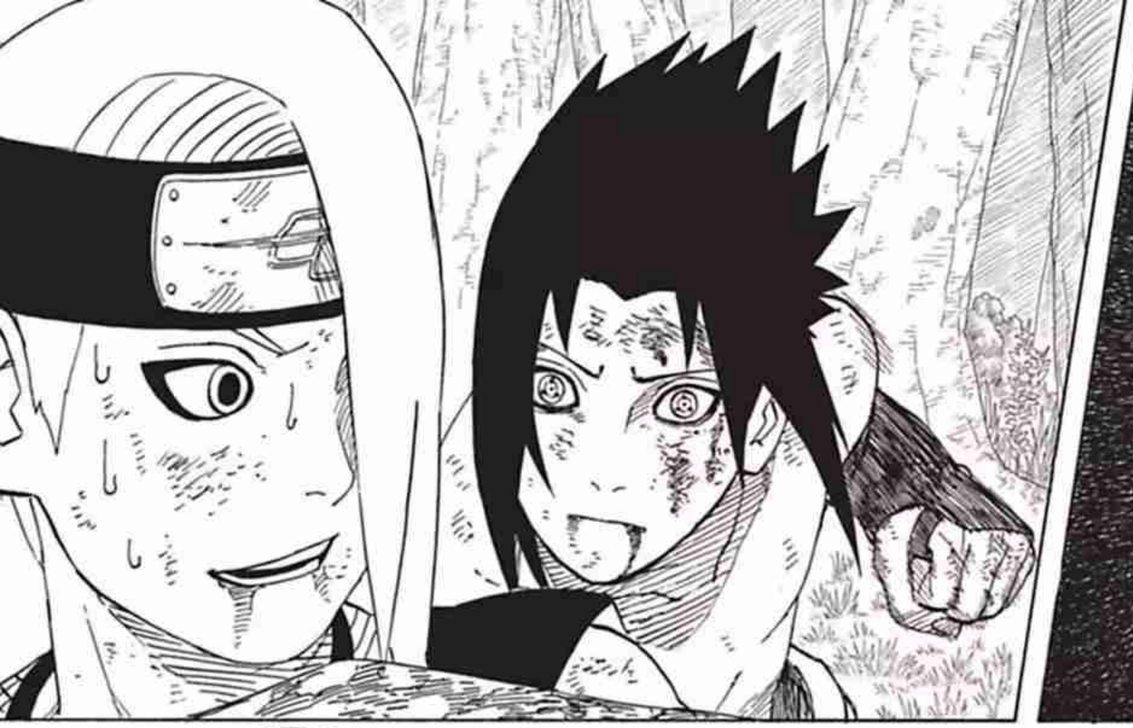
ARGH!
THUD

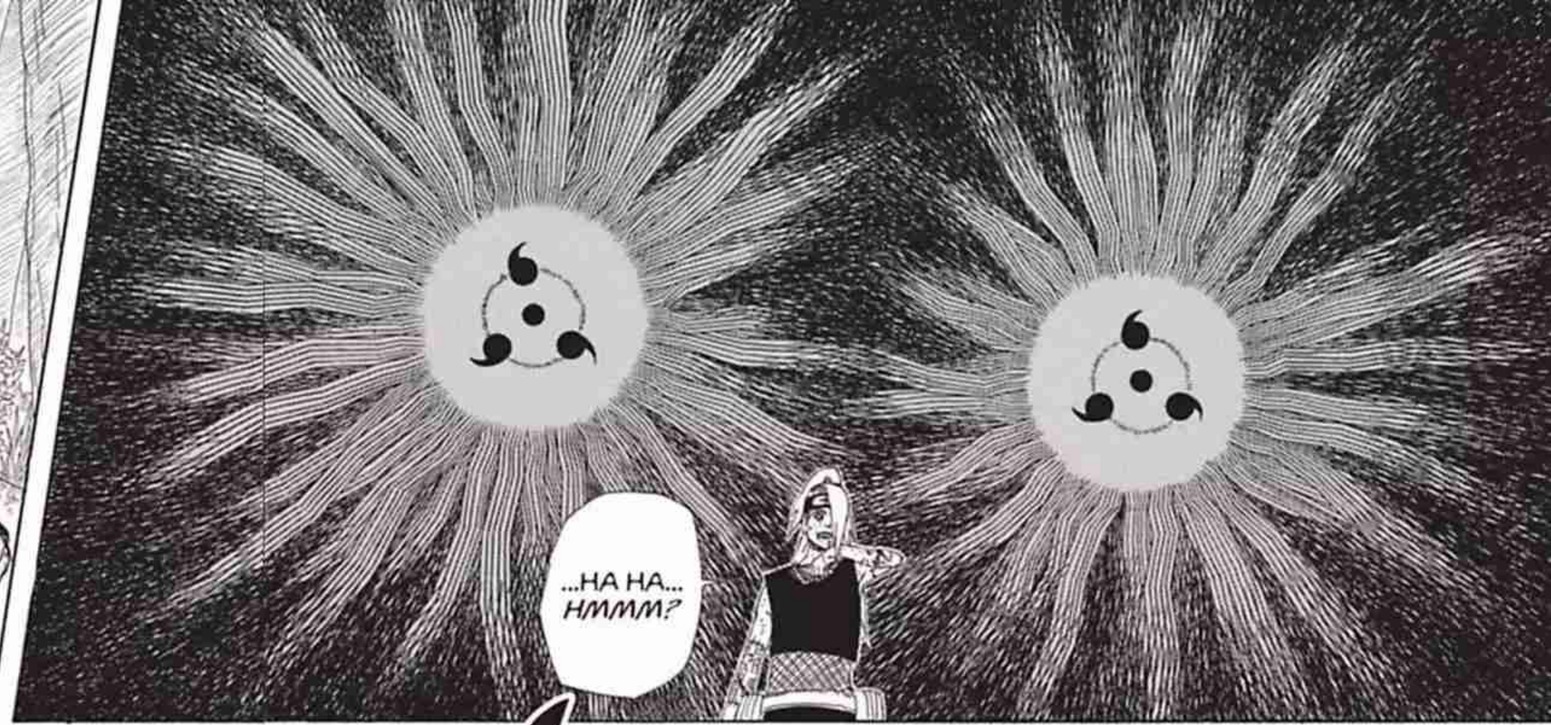
UNH...

!

SNAP
ARGH!
THOCK
THUCK
SNAP
UGH!

READ THIS WAY
KRRNKLE
KRRNKLE
KRRNKLE
KRRNKLE
TMP
MY ART TRIUMPHS!!
I WON!
I WON.
HA HA... HA HA HA HA...
...
SKRITCH



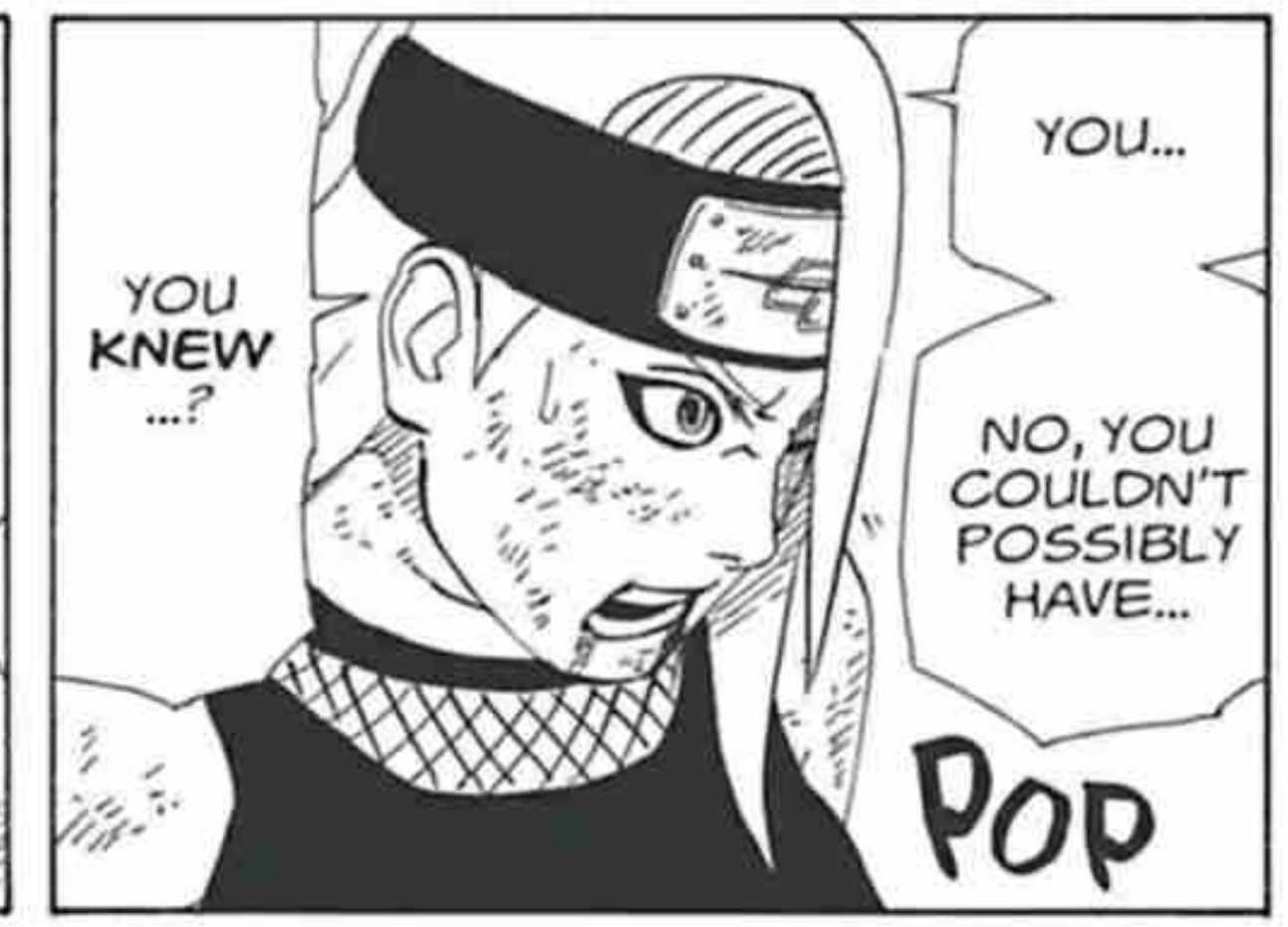

...HA HA...
HMMM?

BA
KOOM

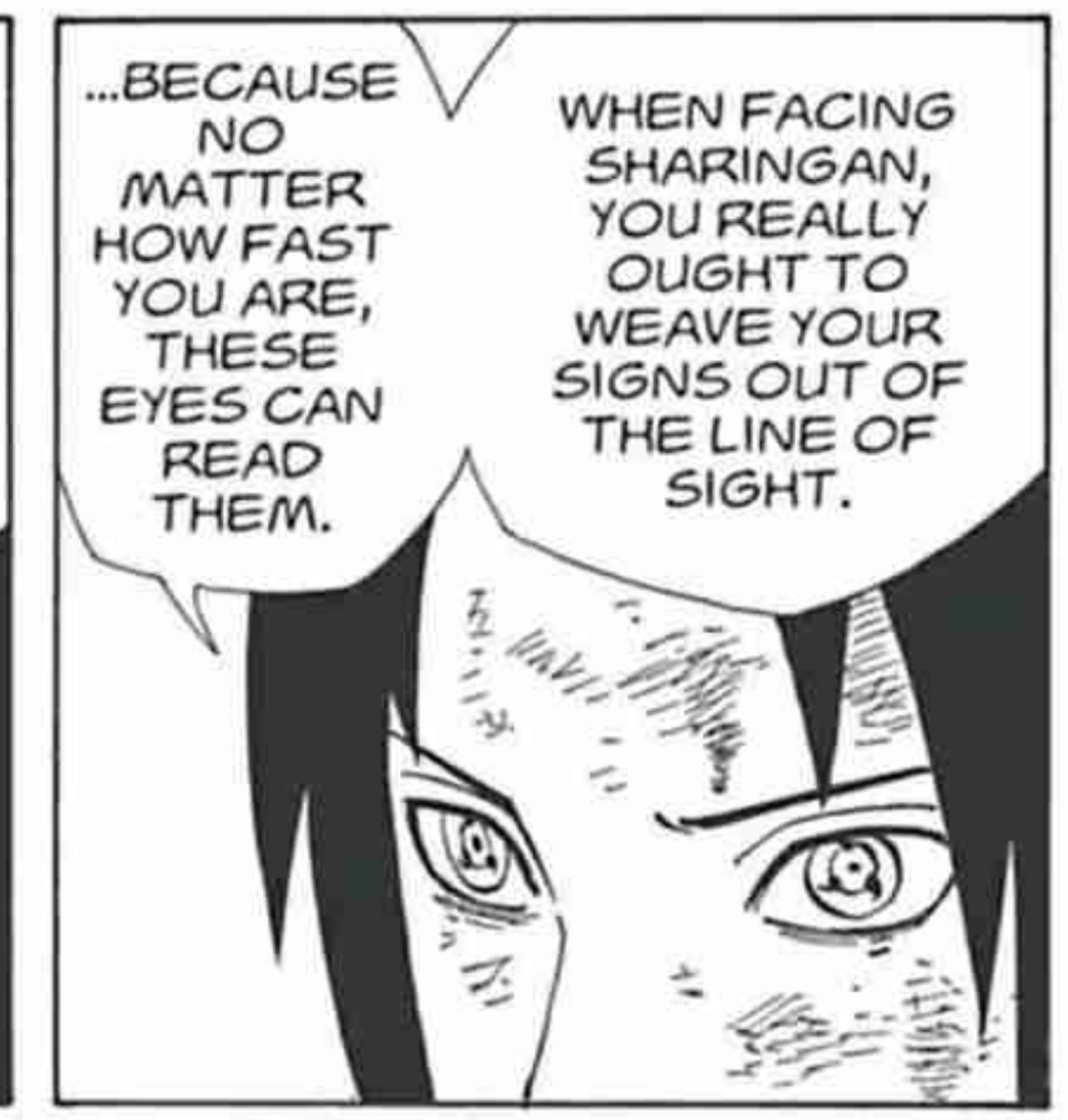
AAARGHH!!

CRASH

MUF
MUF
YEAH... FROM VERY EARLY ON...


YOU...
YOU KNEW ...?
NO, YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE...
POP

ALL OF YOUR JUTSU SO FAR HAVE USED DOTON OR EARTH STYLE SIGNS.


...BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW FAST YOU ARE, THESE EYES CAN READ THEM.
WHEN FACING SHARINGAN, YOU REALLY OUGHT TO WEAVE YOUR SIGNS OUT OF THE LINE OF SIGHT.

THEN THAT LIGHTNING BLADE YOU USED...
SO YOU HAD FIGURED IT OUT...

YOU DO THE MATH.
MY CHIDORI IS RAITON OR LIGHT-NING STYLE...

NOW I SEE...

YOUR BOMBS CAN BE DEFUSED BY RUNNING RAITON THROUGH THEM...
...IT'S THEIR ACHILLES' HEEL.
DOTON IS VULNERABLE TO RAITON.

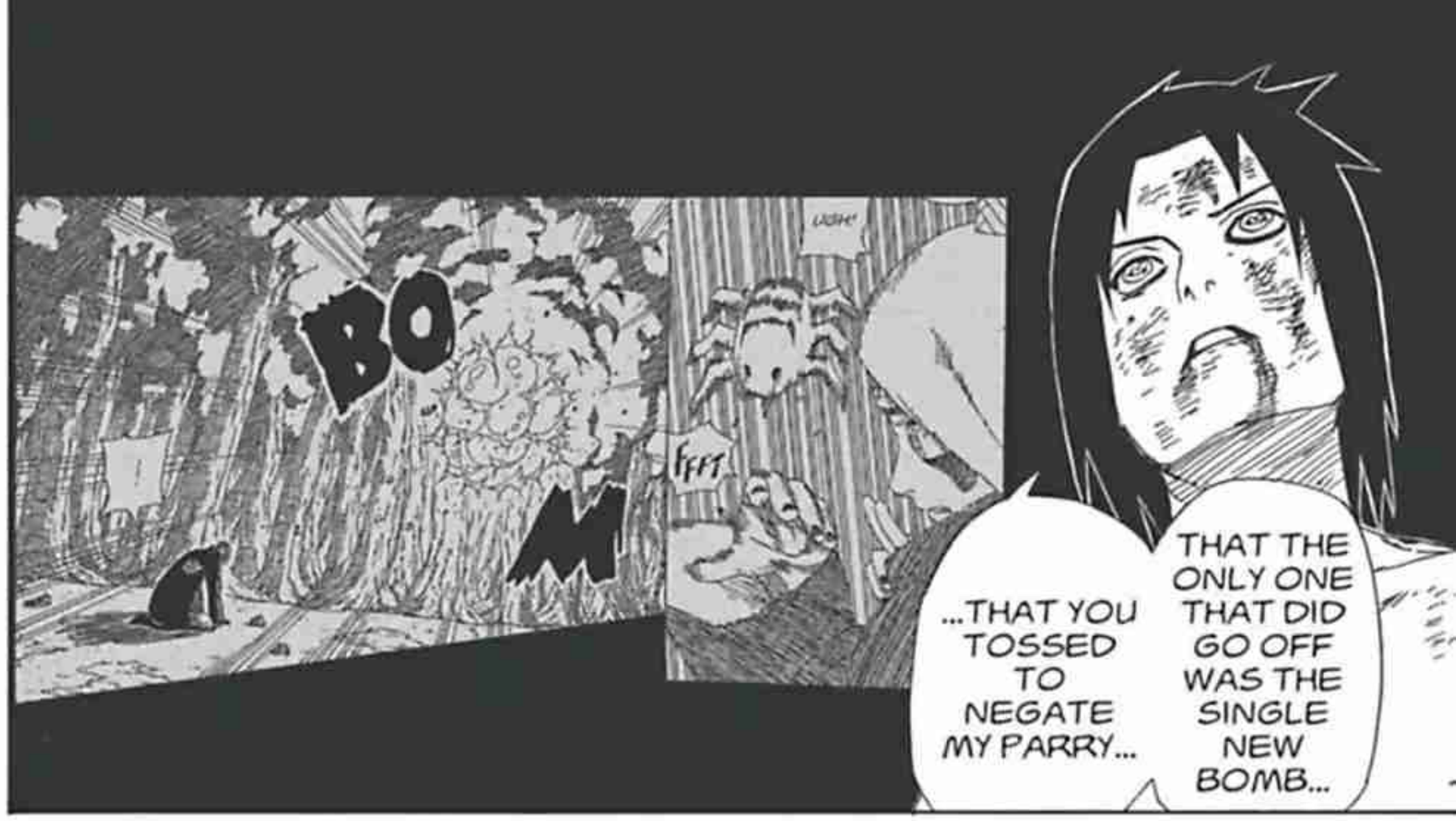
BY RUNNING THAT LIGHTNING BLADE THROUGH YOURSELF...

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DISSECTED MY ART'S WEAK POINT SO QUICKLY...
WHEN DID YOU REALIZE IT?

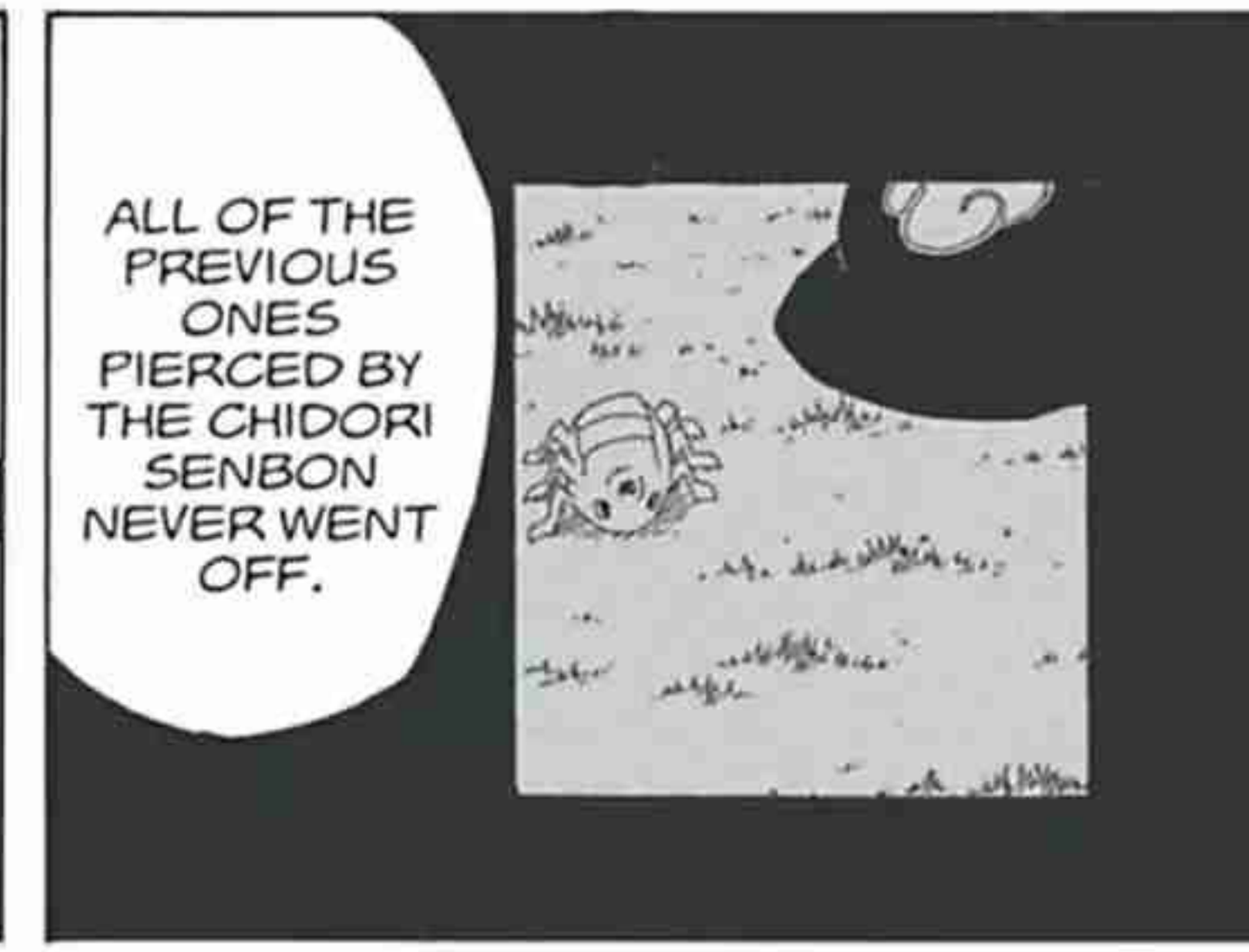
BY THE WAY, MY JUTSU IS TECHNI-CALLY CALLED CHIDORI ...
YEAH... BUT THE EFFORT SURE WORE ME OUT.

...YOU TURNED ALL THE C4 INSIDE YOUR BODY INTO DUDS...

READ THIS WAY

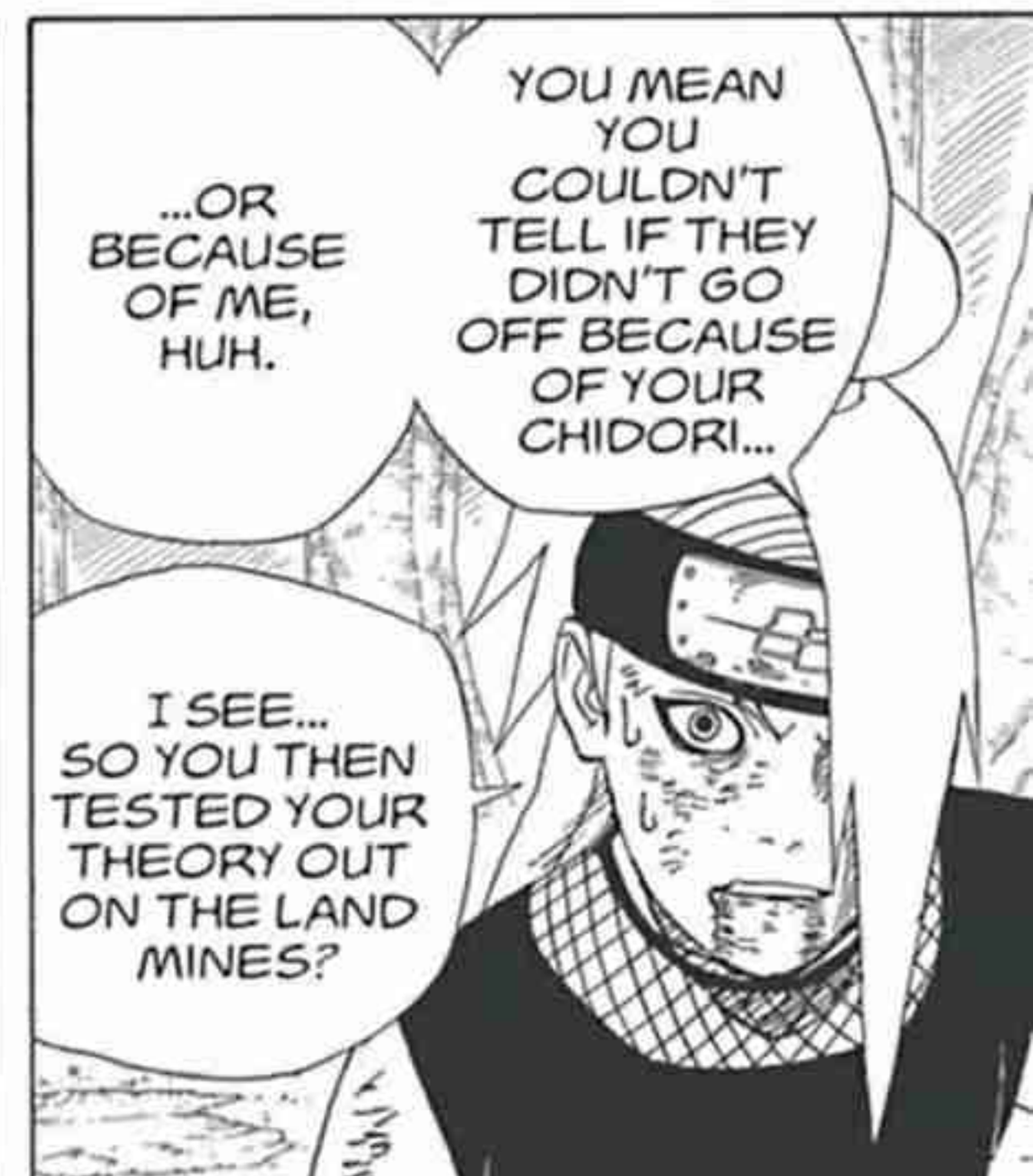

BO
M
FFFT
...THAT YOU TOSSED TO NEGATE MY PARRY...
THAT THE ONLY ONE THAT DID GO OFF WAS THE SINGLE NEW BOMB...

THUP
BUT I WASN'T SURE. MAYBE YOU DIDN'T DETONATE THEM ON PURPOSE...
...BECAUSE SOME HAD LANDED NEAR YOUR PARTNER.

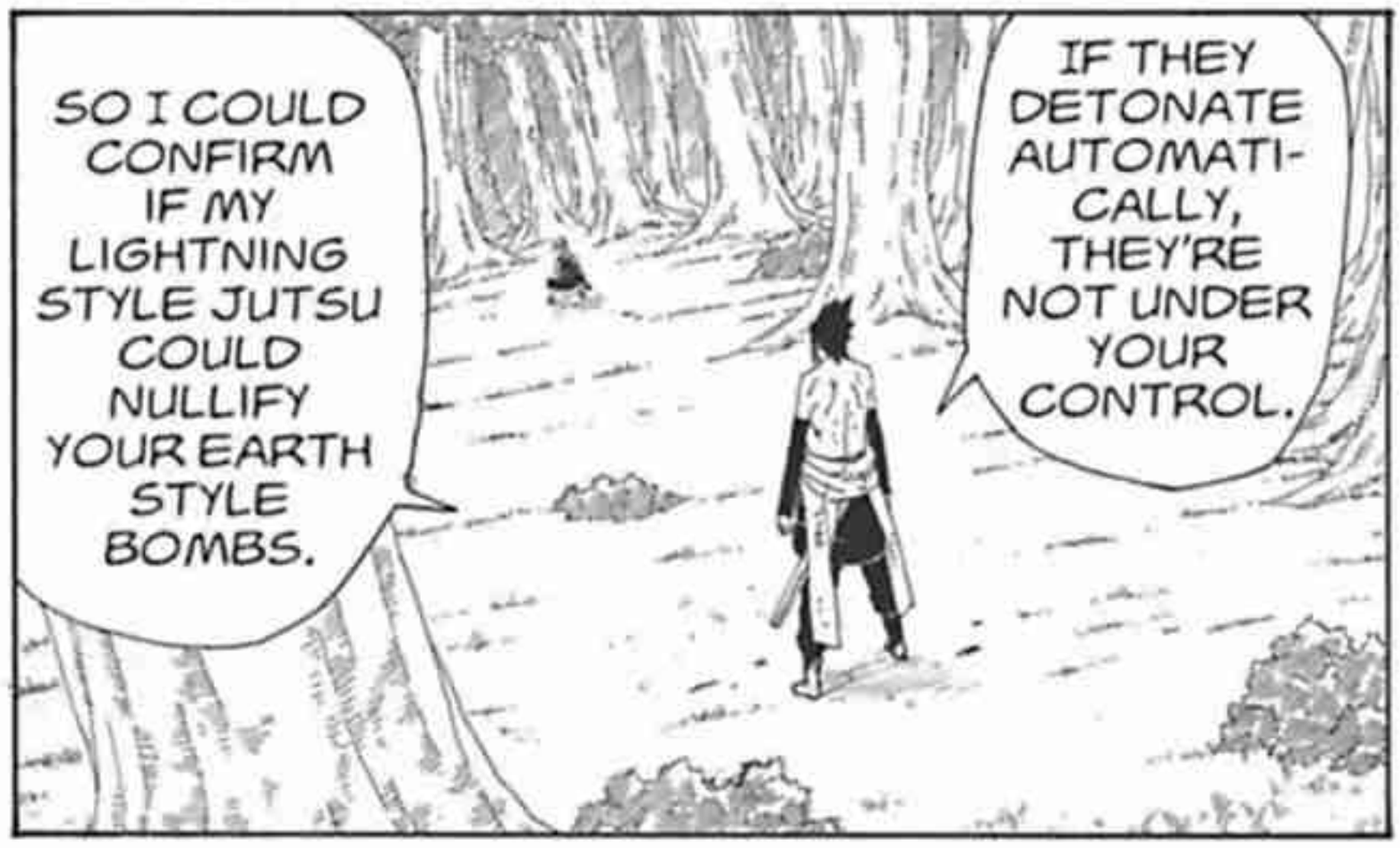

ALL OF THE PREVIOUS ONES PIERCED BY THE CHIDORI SENBON NEVER WENT OFF.

...ALL SET TO AUTO-MATICALLY DETONATE UPON CONTACT.
THE GROUND AROUND YOU IS ALREADY COM-PLETELY SEEDED WITH MINES...
YOU SAID YOURSELF THE LAND MINES WERE RIGGED TO BLOW AUTO-MATICALLY.

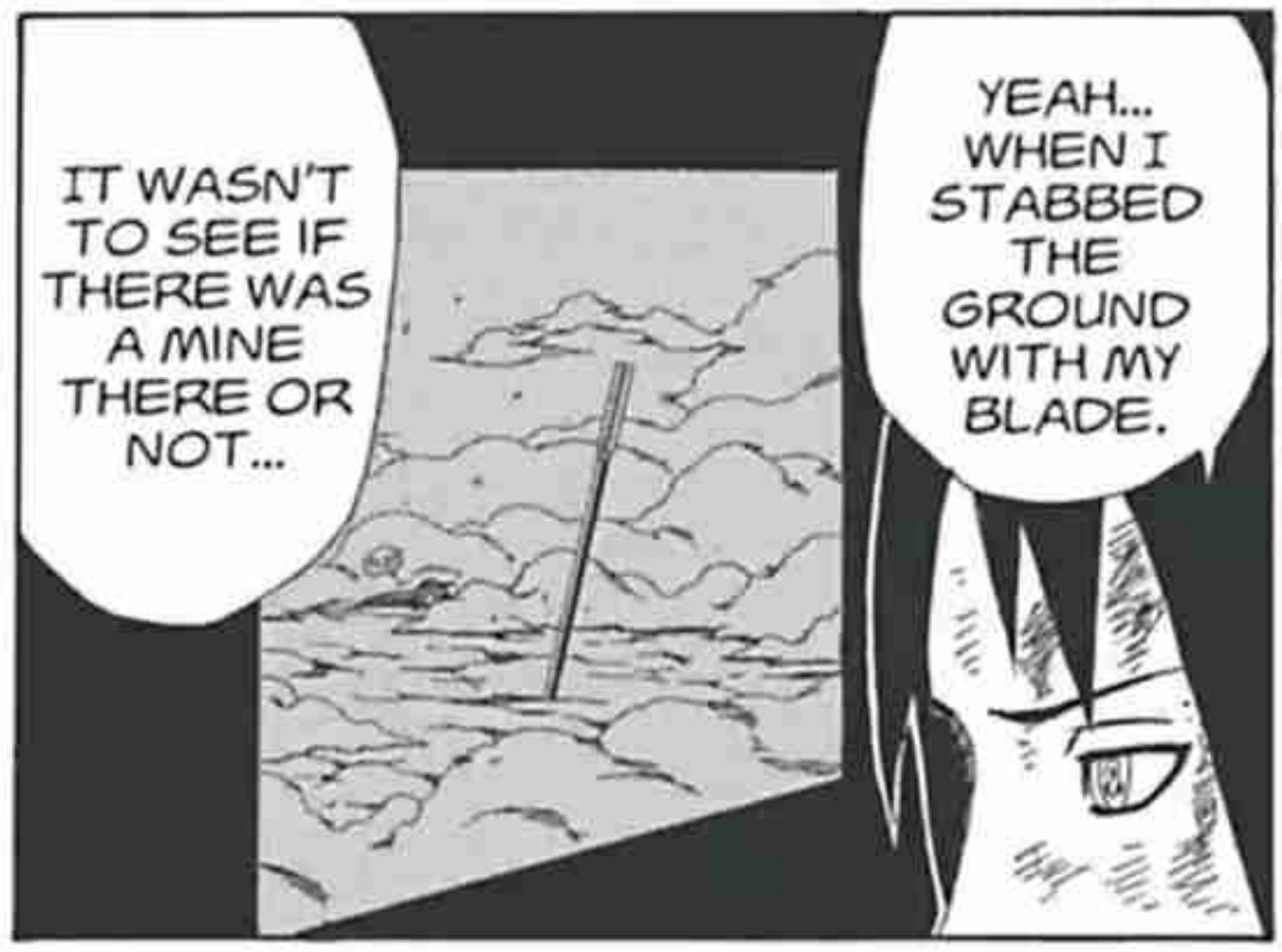
THAT'S RIGHT.

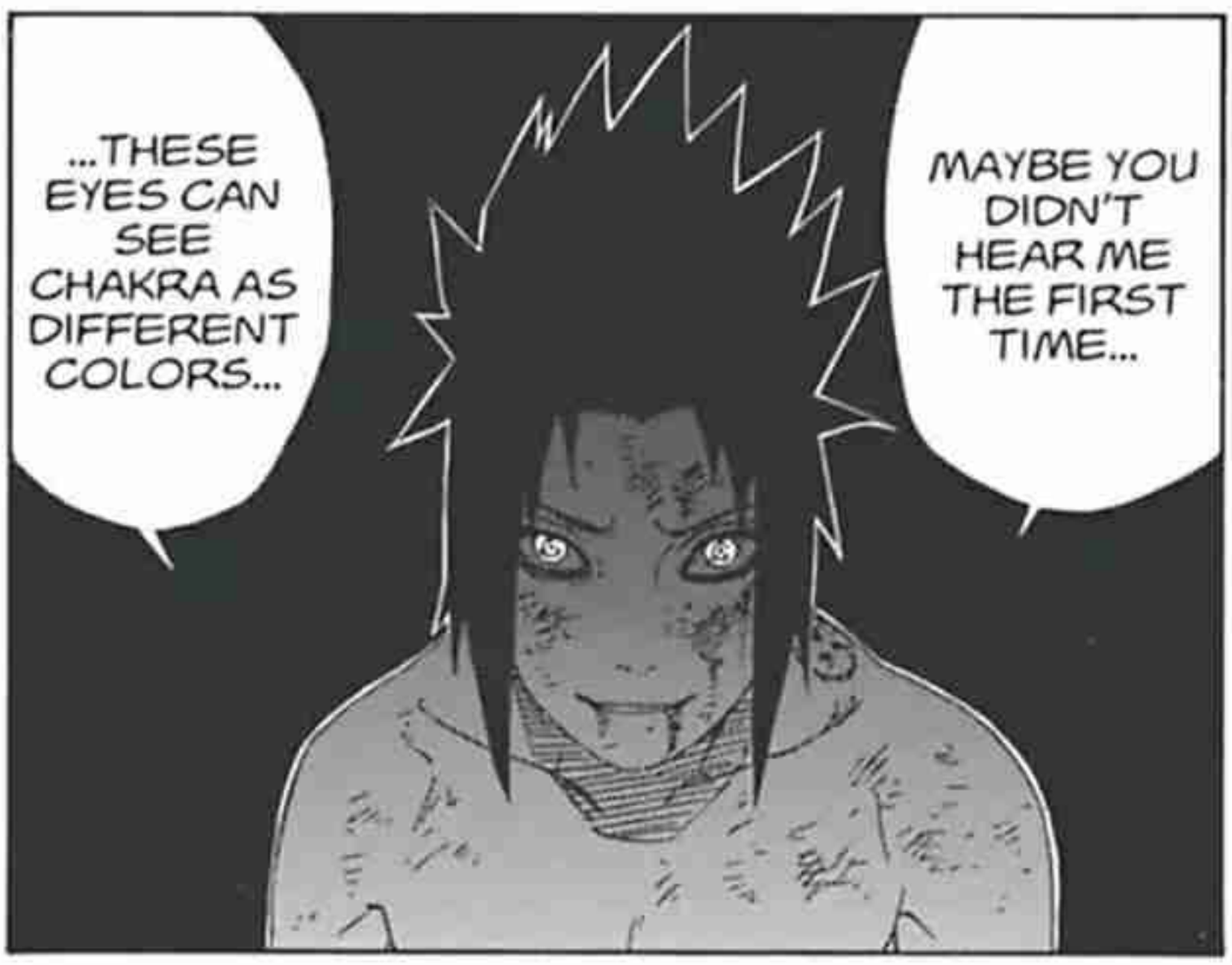

...OR BECAUSE OF ME, HUH.
YOU MEAN YOU COULDN'T TELL IF THEY DIDN'T GO OFF BECAUSE OF YOUR CHIDORI...
I SEE... SO YOU THEN TESTED YOUR THEORY OUT ON THE LAND MINES?

A-AHH...


SO I COULD CONFIRM IF MY LIGHTNING STYLE JUTSU COULD NULLIFY YOUR EARTH STYLE BOMBS.
IF THEY DETONATE AUTOMATICALLY, THEY'RE NOT UNDER YOUR CONTROL.

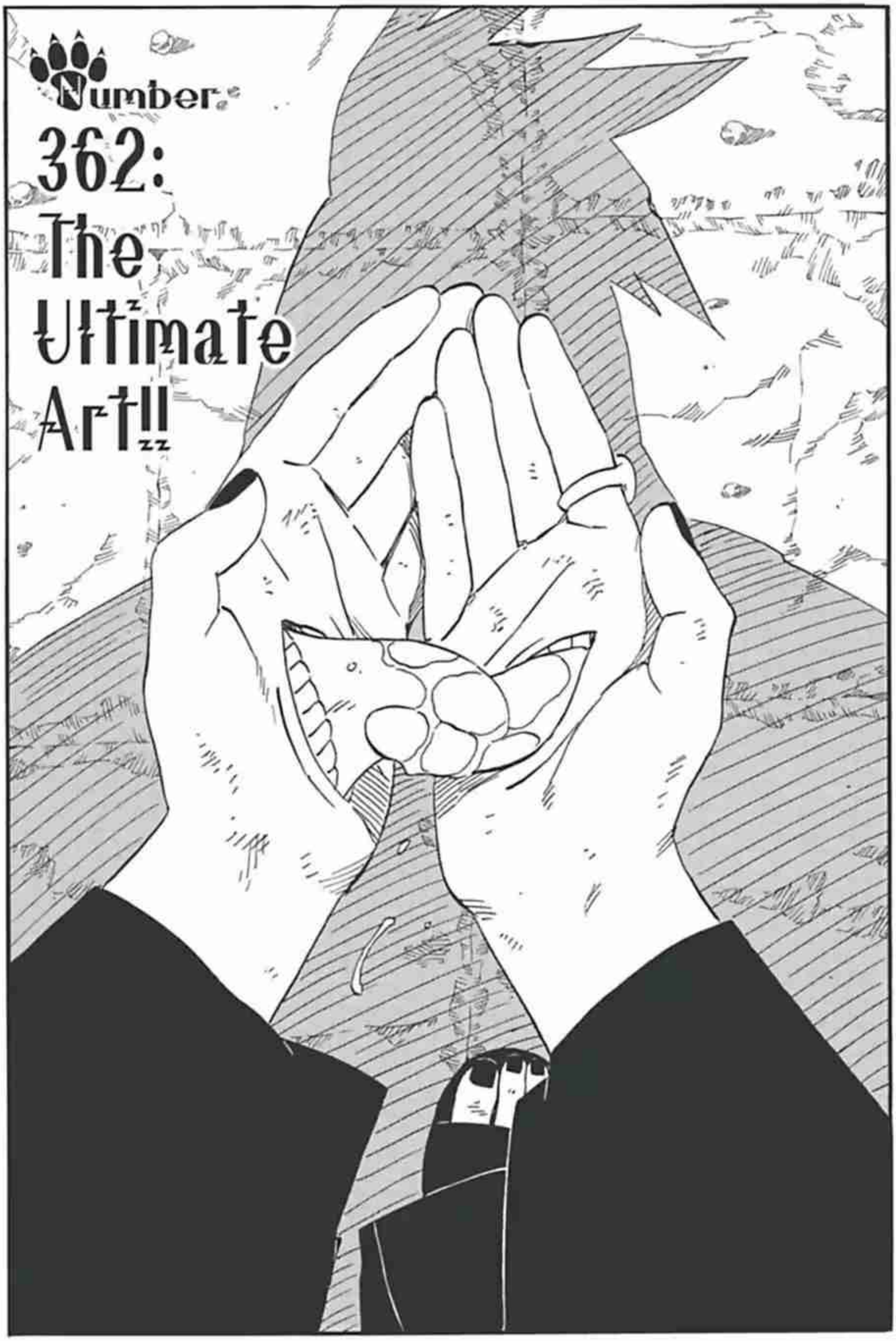
BZZ
I WAS TESTING MY HYPOTHESIS...
...BY RUNNING MY CHIDORI-CHARGED BLADE THROUGH A MINE I KNEW WAS THERE.

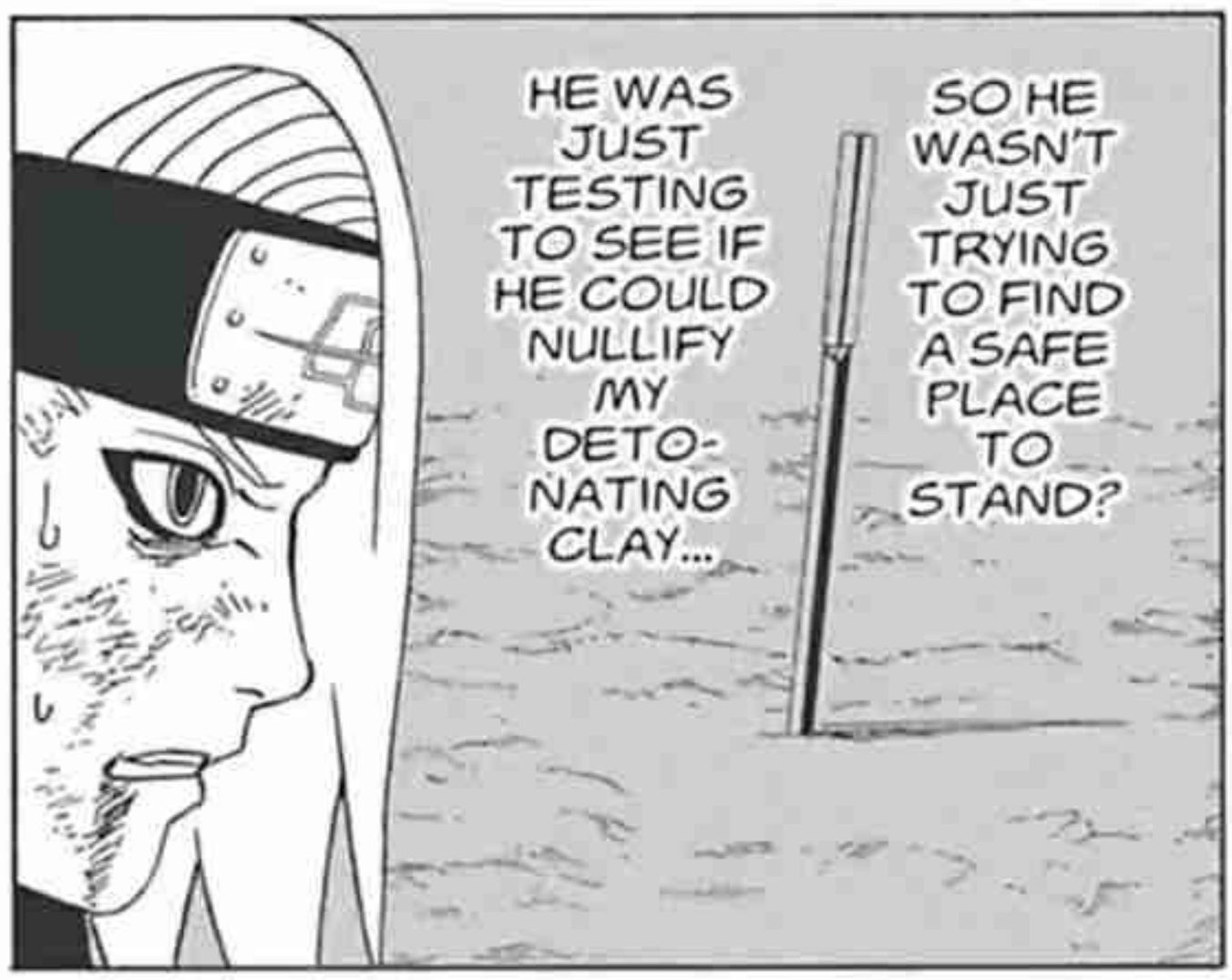

IT WASN'T TO SEE IF THERE WAS A MINE THERE OR NOT...
YEAH... WHEN I STABBED THE GROUND WITH MY BLADE.


...THESE EYES CAN SEE CHAKRA AS DIFFERENT COLORS...
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME THE FIRST TIME...

HOW DID YOU KNOW THE EXACT LOCATIONS OF THE MINES?!
BUT... HOW...?!

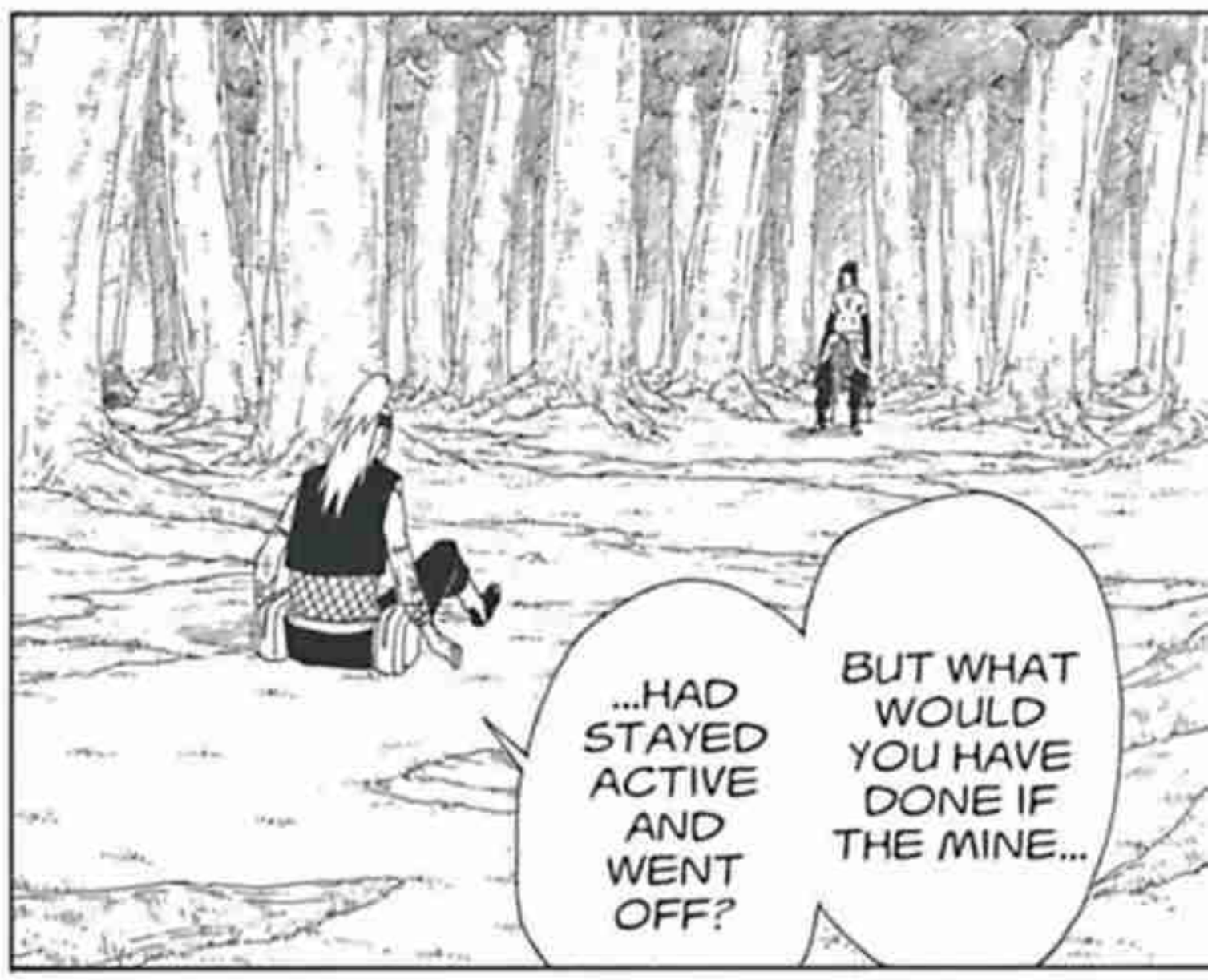
BZZ...
BZZ...


Number
362:
The
Ultimate
Art!!


HE WAS JUST TESTING TO SEE IF HE COULD NULLIFY MY DETO-NATING CLAY...
SO HE WASN'T JUST TRYING TO FIND A SAFE PLACE TO STAND?

YOU SAW WHERE THE MINES HAD BEEN PLACED...?

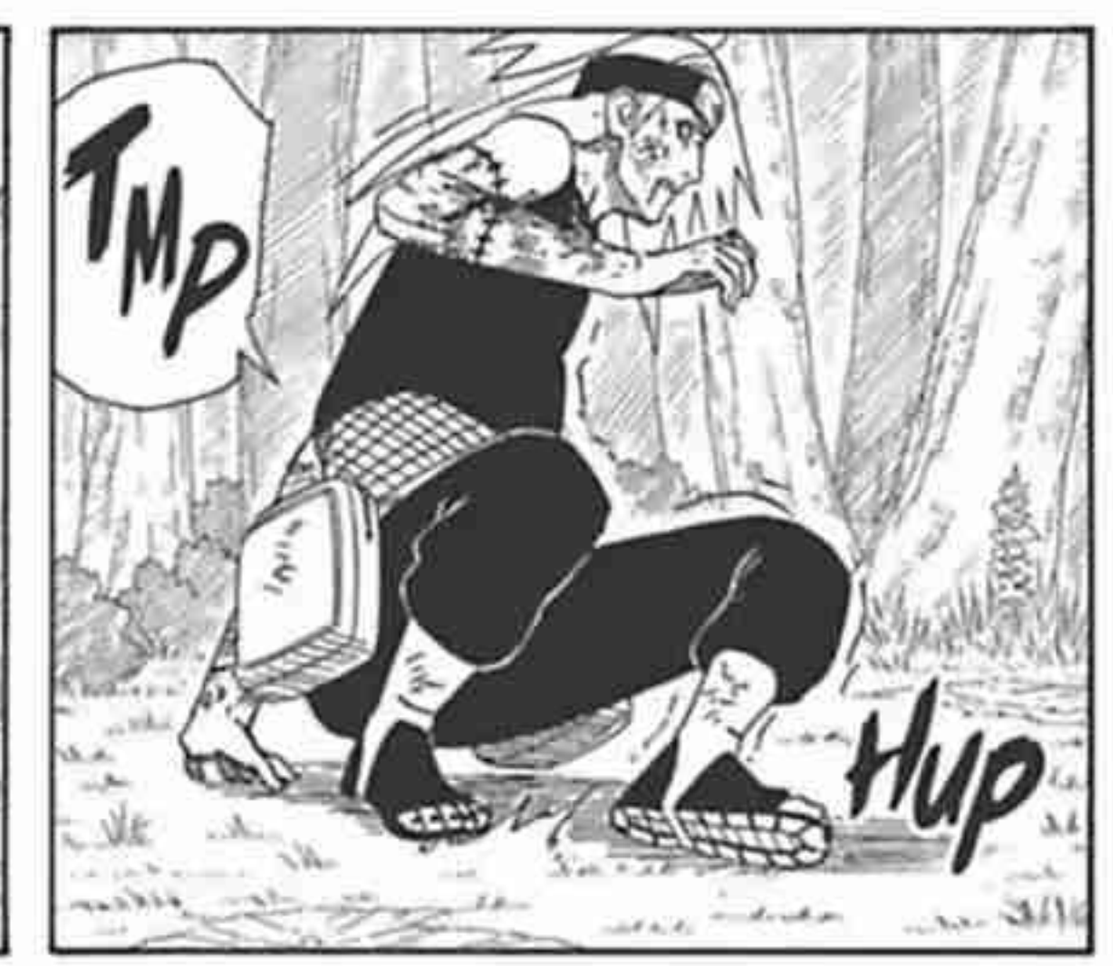
FORTU-NATELY, I HAD A BACKUP PLAN JUST IN CASE.
THERE WERE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE OUT-COMES.
ONE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YET.


...HAD STAYED ACTIVE AND WENT OFF?
BUT WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF THE MINE...

!
SHUF SHUF

HE... STILL HAS OTHER JUTSU...?

THUMP
RNNH
UGH!


TMP
Hup

AGAIN... WHERE IS ITACHI?
NRNCH

GAH...
RRNT
RRNT

THUD
BZZZZZZ
THUD...

READ THIS WAY
BZZZAK
!
SNAP
SNAP
TUNK
KRRK
HUF
HUF
BLOP
BLOP

YOUR CHAKRA TOOK A BIG HIT RIGHT THERE, HMMM?

HEH... YOU TALK TOUGH, BUT YOU'RE ON YOUR LAST LEGS TOO.

HUF

HUF

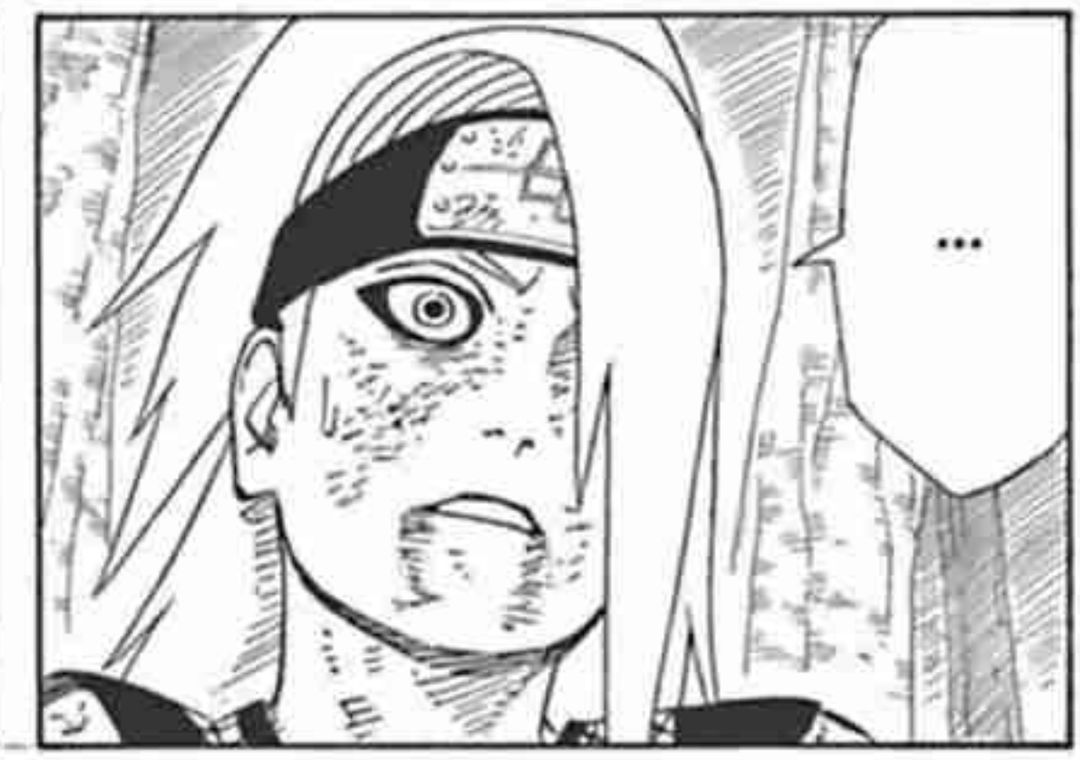
HUF

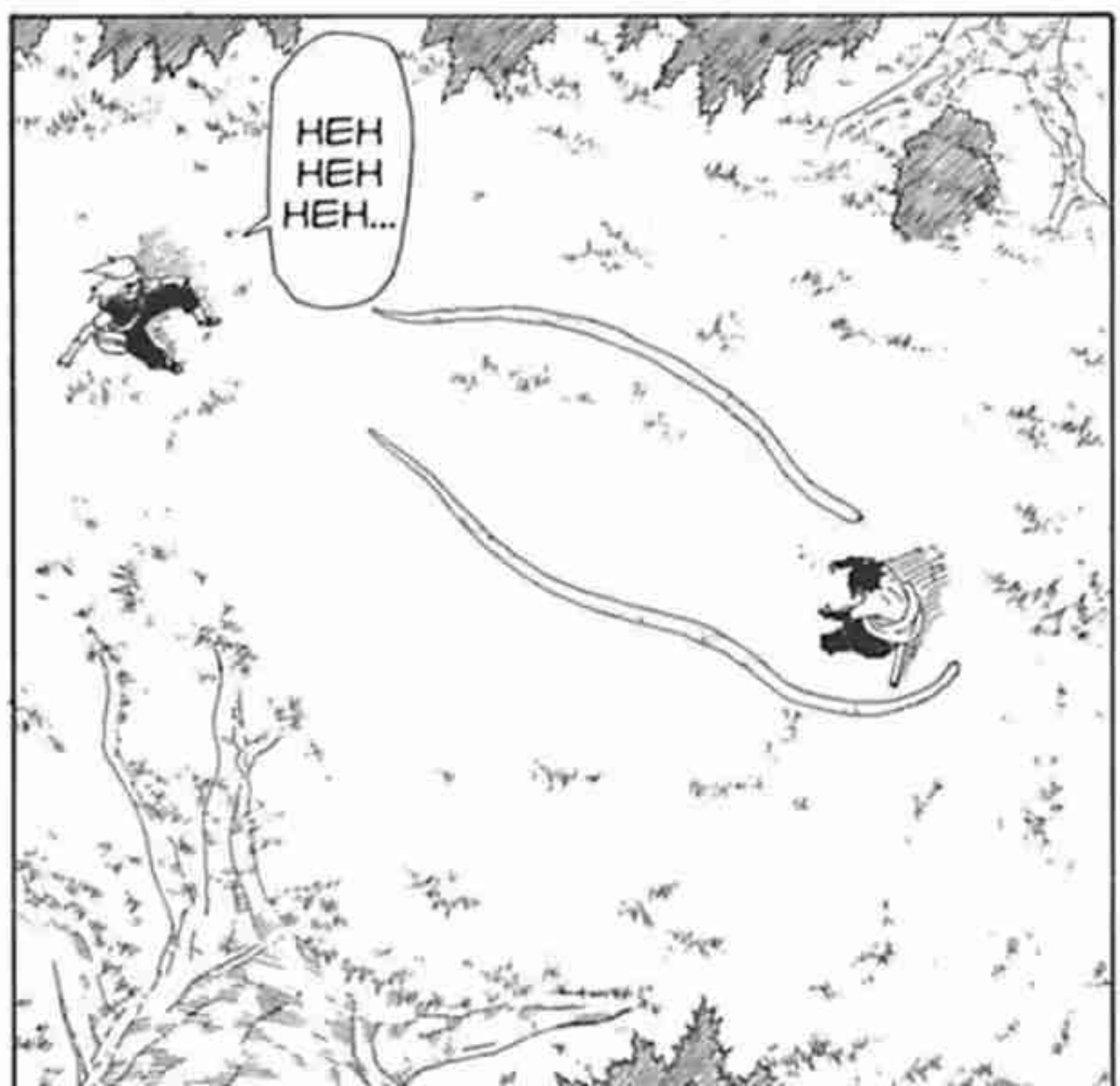
HUF

HUF

YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME...
...MY GREATEST MASTER-PIECE!

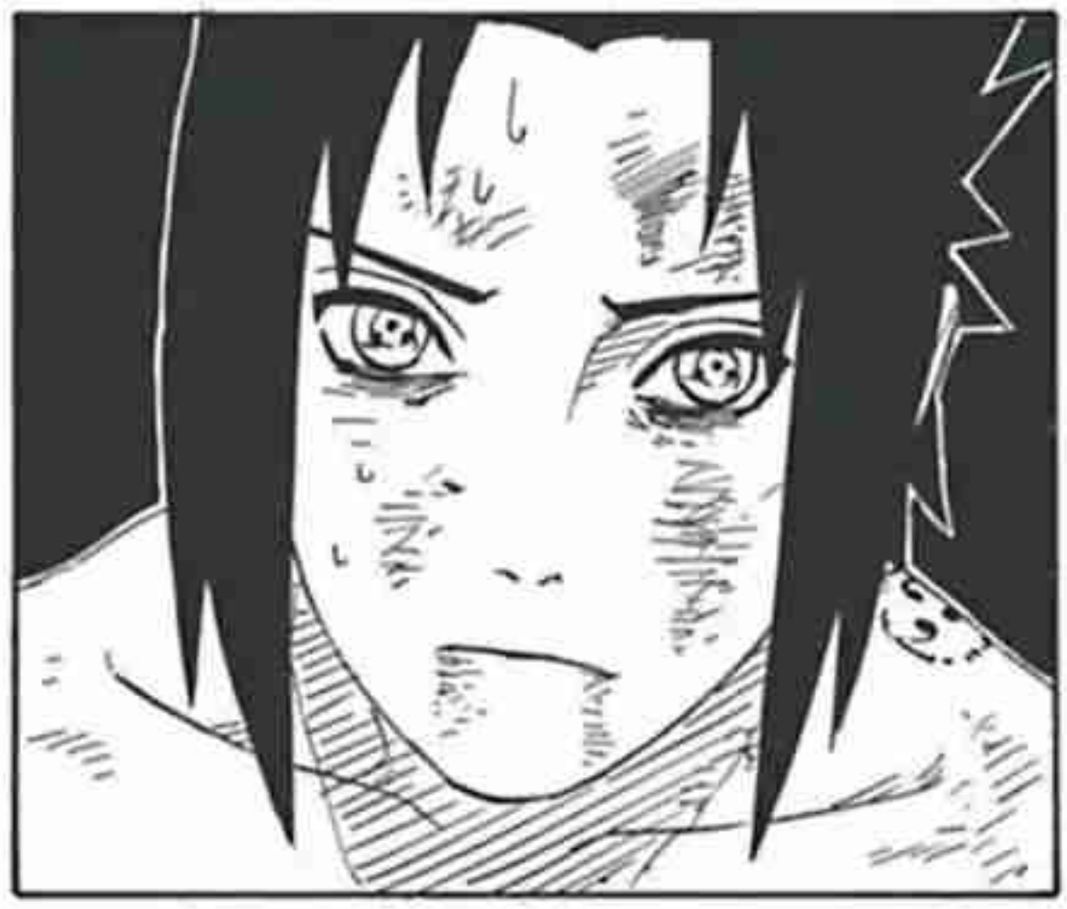
HEH... HEH HEH.

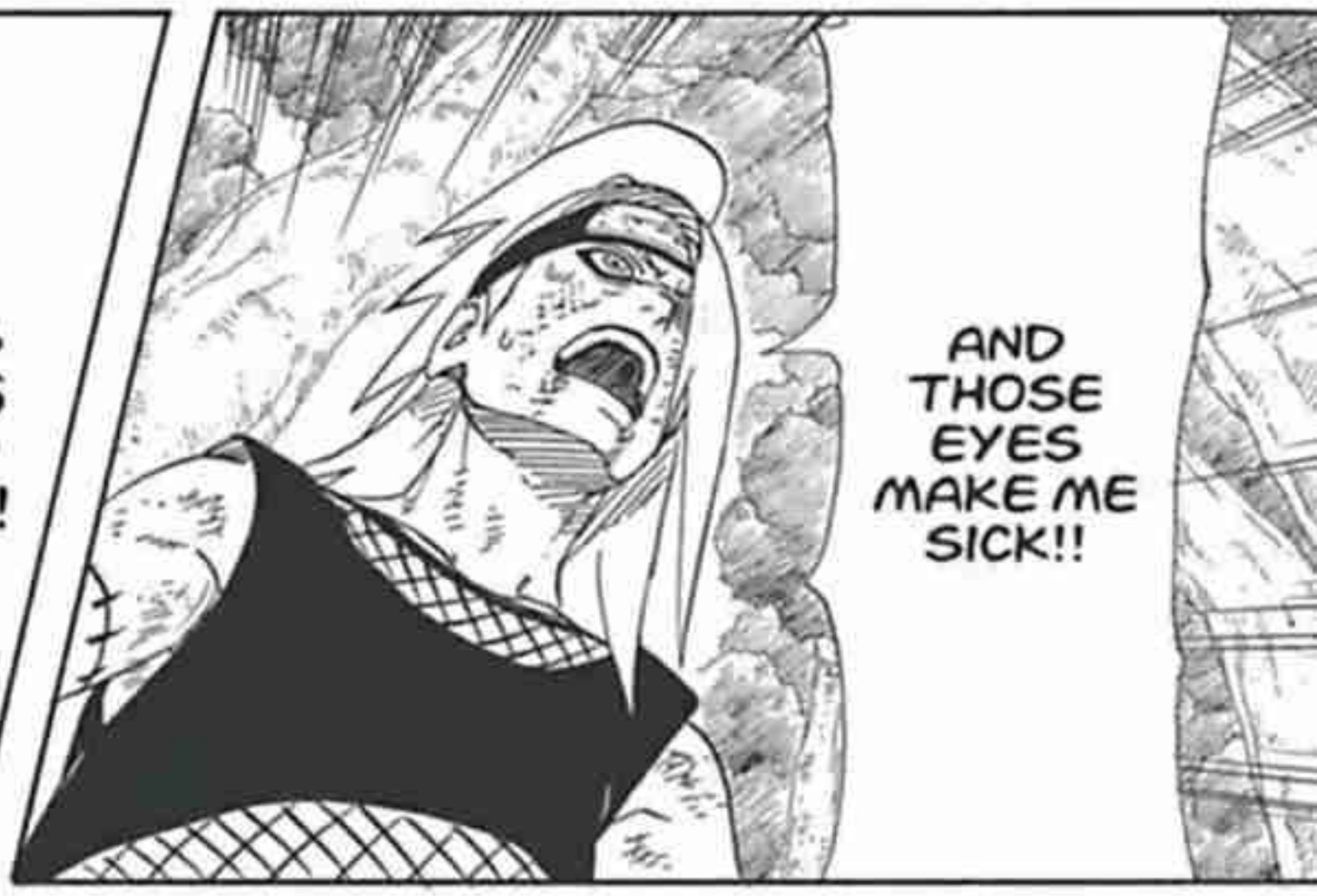

...

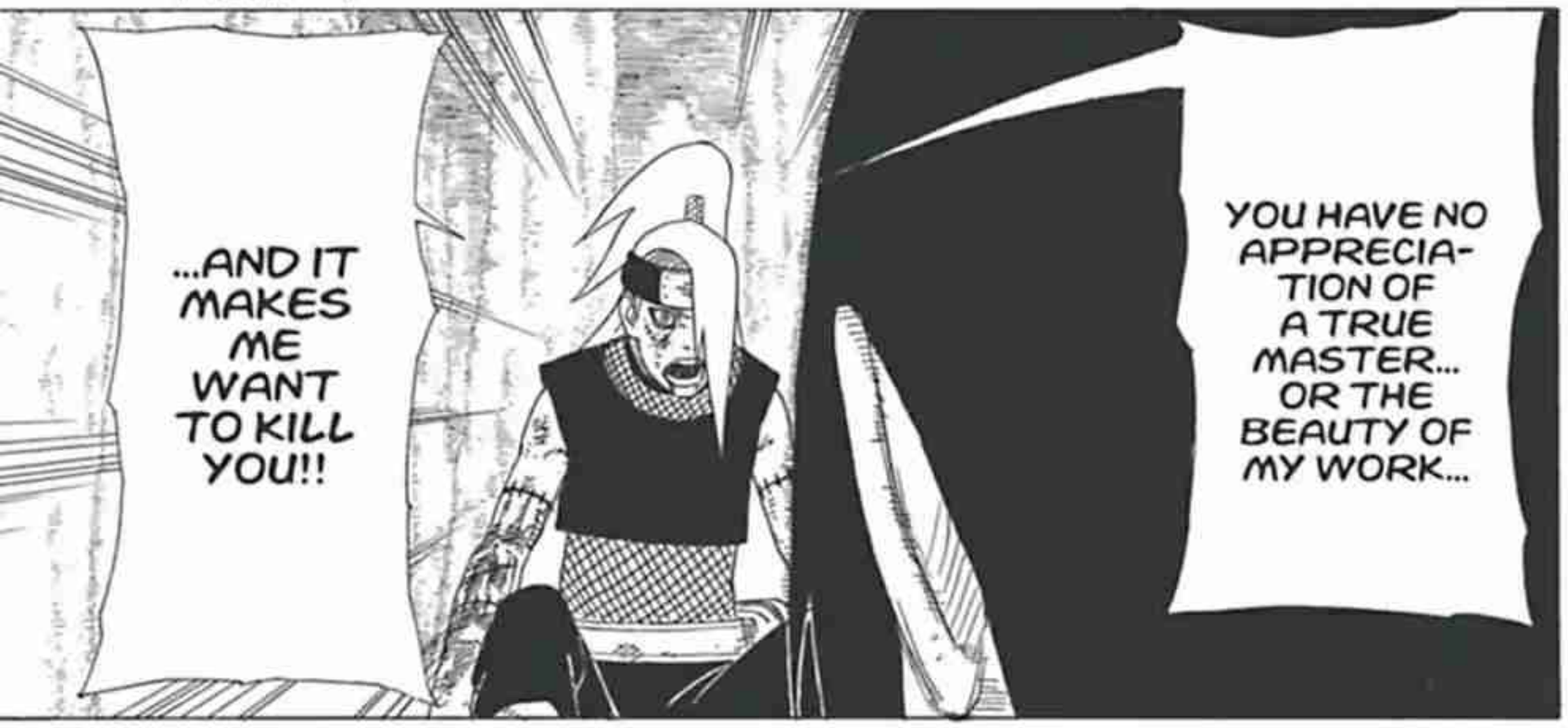

HEH HEH HEH...

THAT'S WHAT ANNOYS ME ABOUT YOU THE MOST!!

BOTH OF YOU UCHIHA BOYS!!!

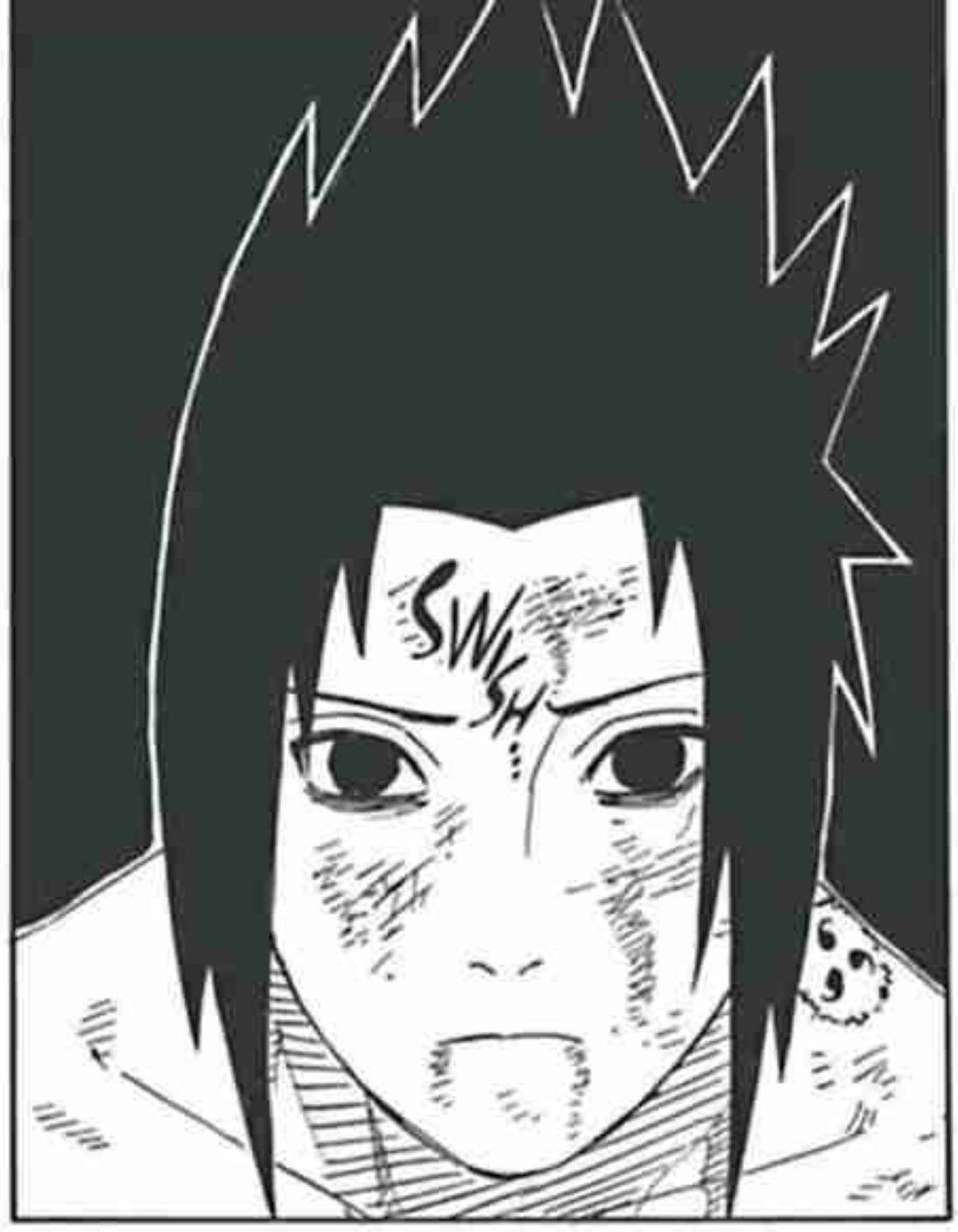


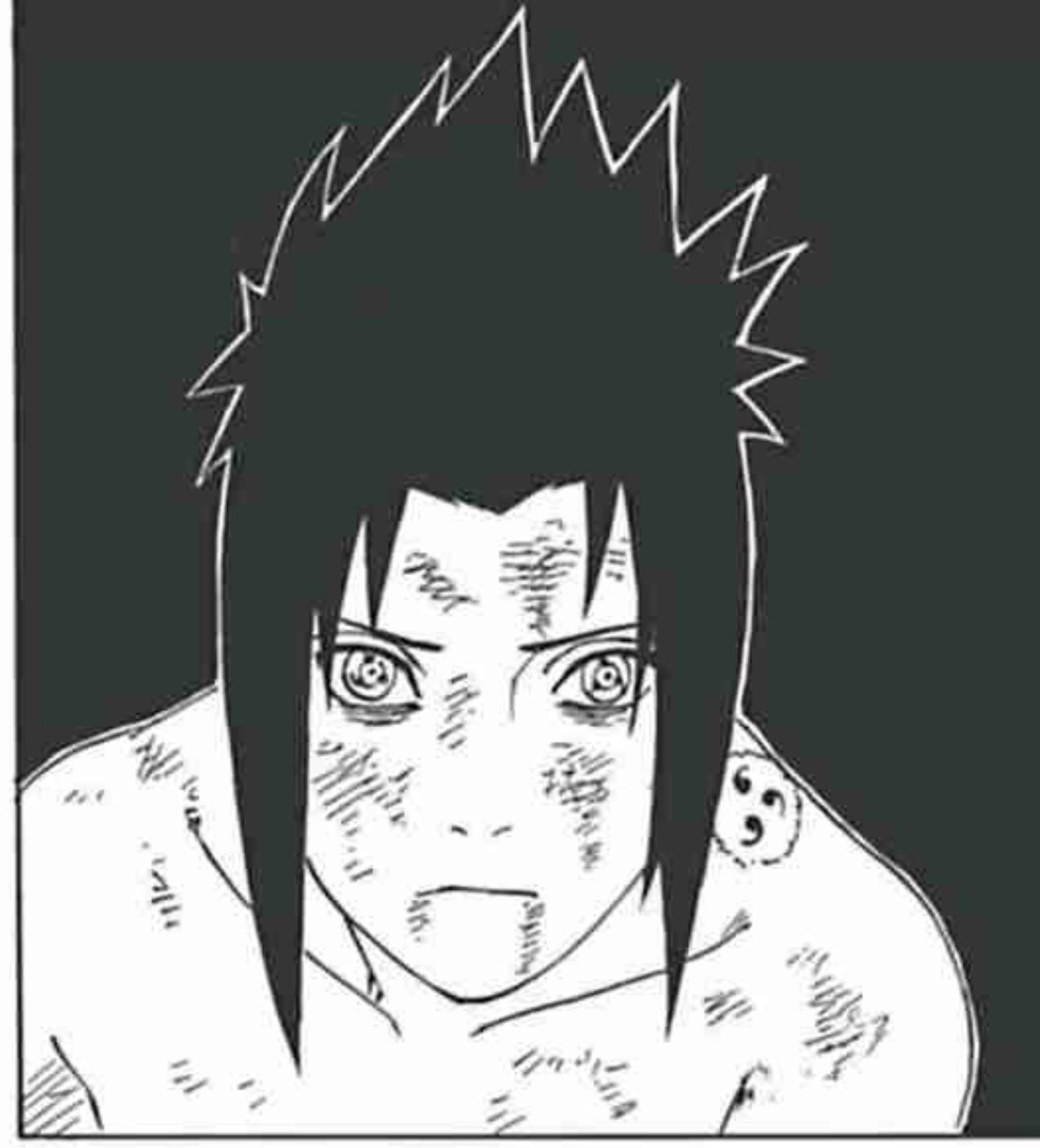



...AND IT MAKES ME WANT TO KILL YOU!!
YOU HAVE NO APPRECIATION OF A TRUE MASTER... OR THE BEAUTY OF MY WORK...

I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHERE ITACHI IS.
I COULDN'T POSSIBLY CARE LESS ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT.

HUF...
HUF...
SNAP

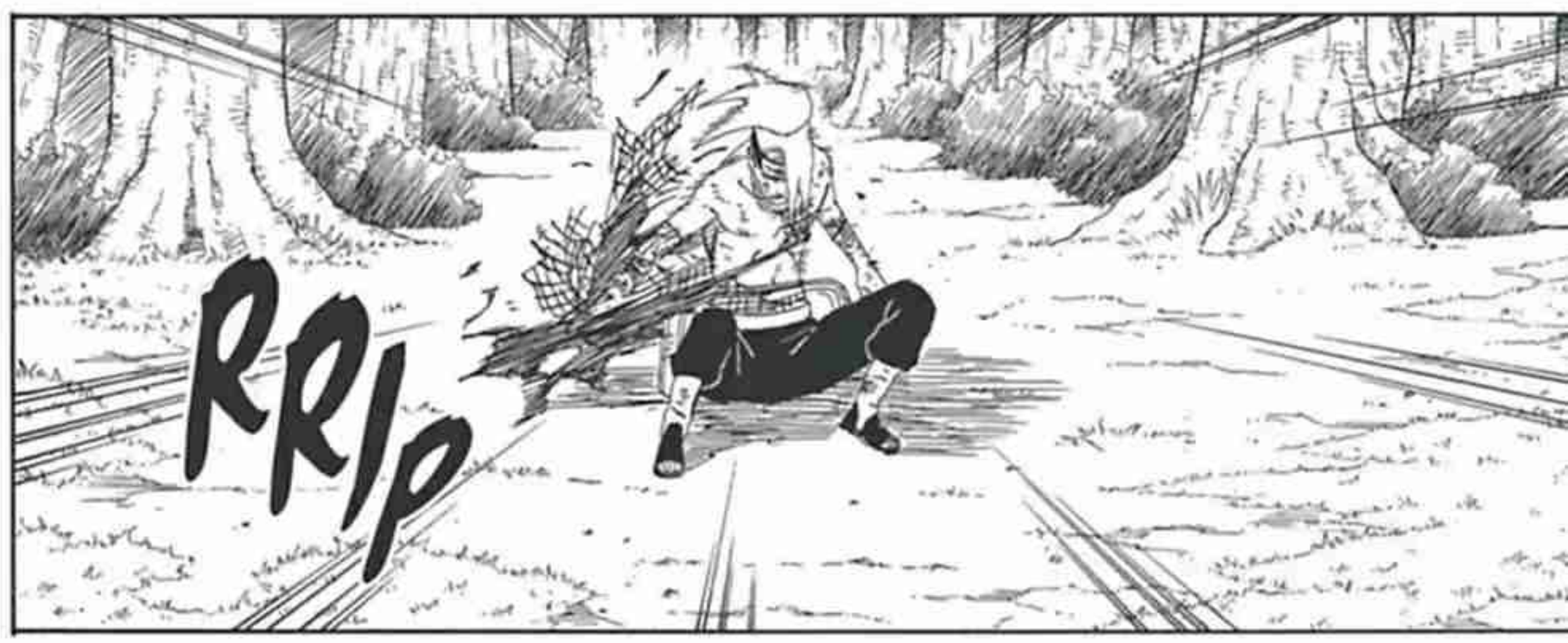

SWISH



!

KRRK

...IS THAT HOW LITTLE YOU FEAR ME...?
...YOU'VE EVEN RETRACTED YOUR SHARINGAN...


RRIP

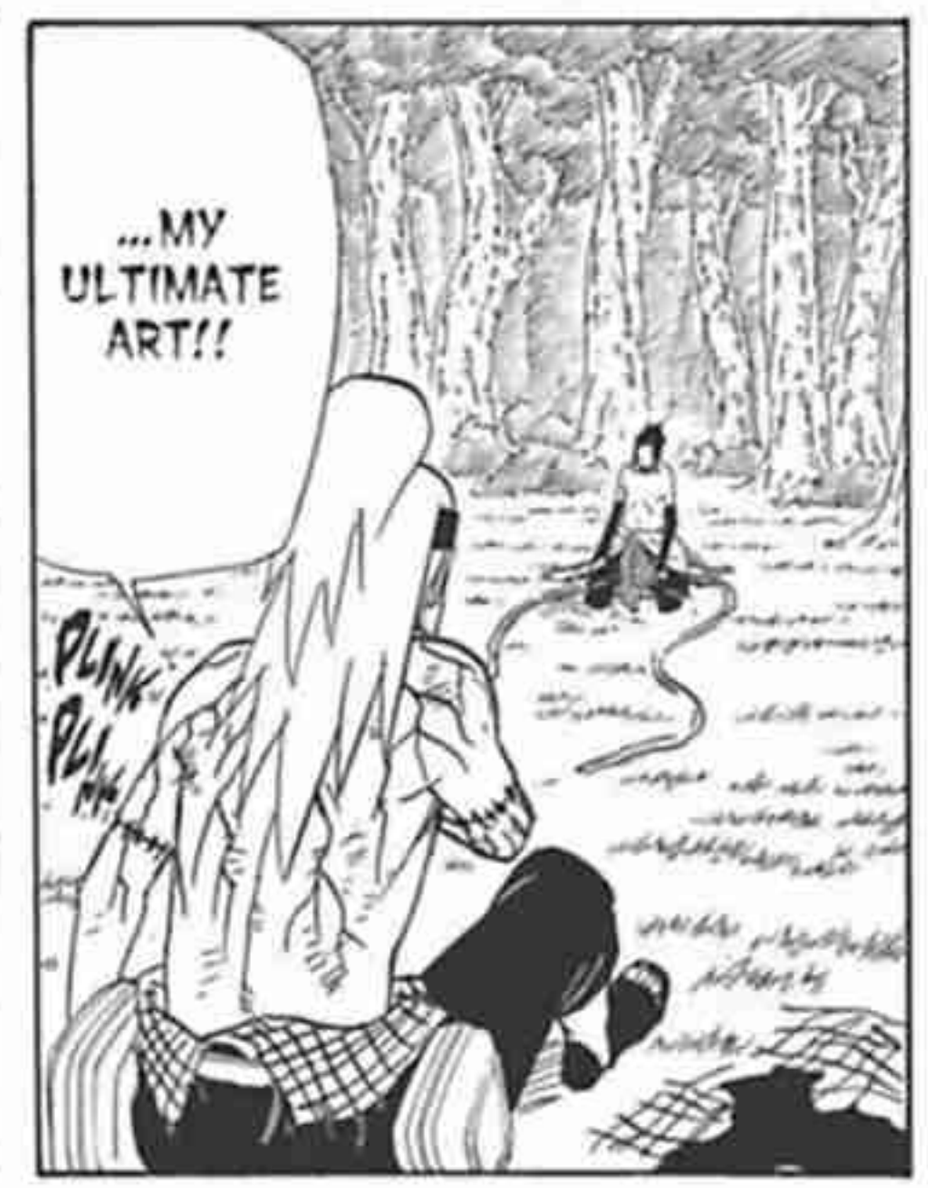
GNASH GNASH
SNAP
FAP...

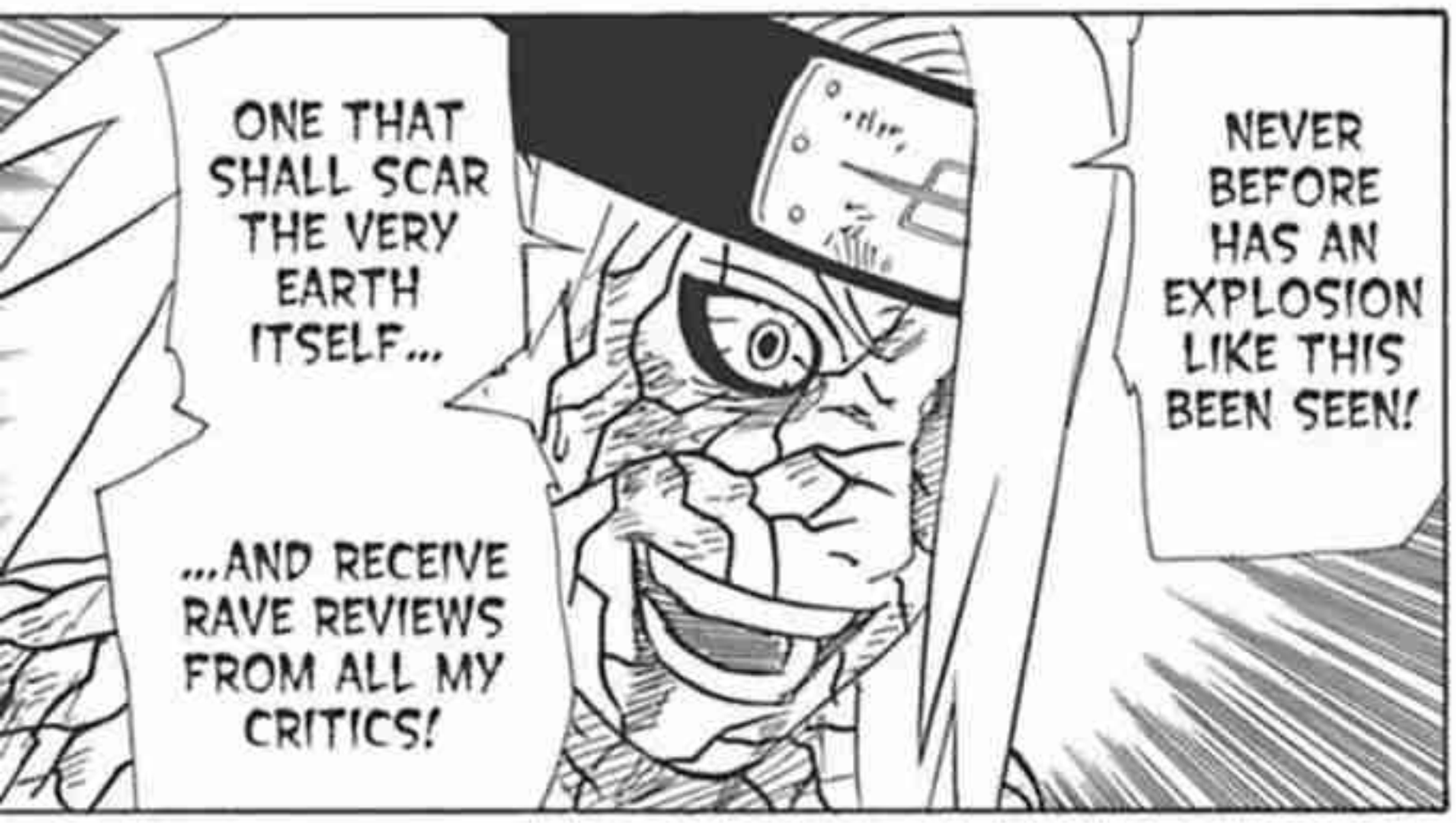
OW!
RRRIP...
!

BLA

GH

PLINK PLINK PLINK PLINK
I SHALL DETONATE MYSELF!!


...MY ULTIMATE ART!!
PLINK PLINK


ONE THAT SHALL SCAR THE VERY EARTH ITSELF...
...AND RECEIVE RAVE REVIEWS FROM ALL MY CRITICS!
NEVER BEFORE HAS AN EXPLOSION LIKE THIS BEEN SEEN!

...HE'S INSANE ...!

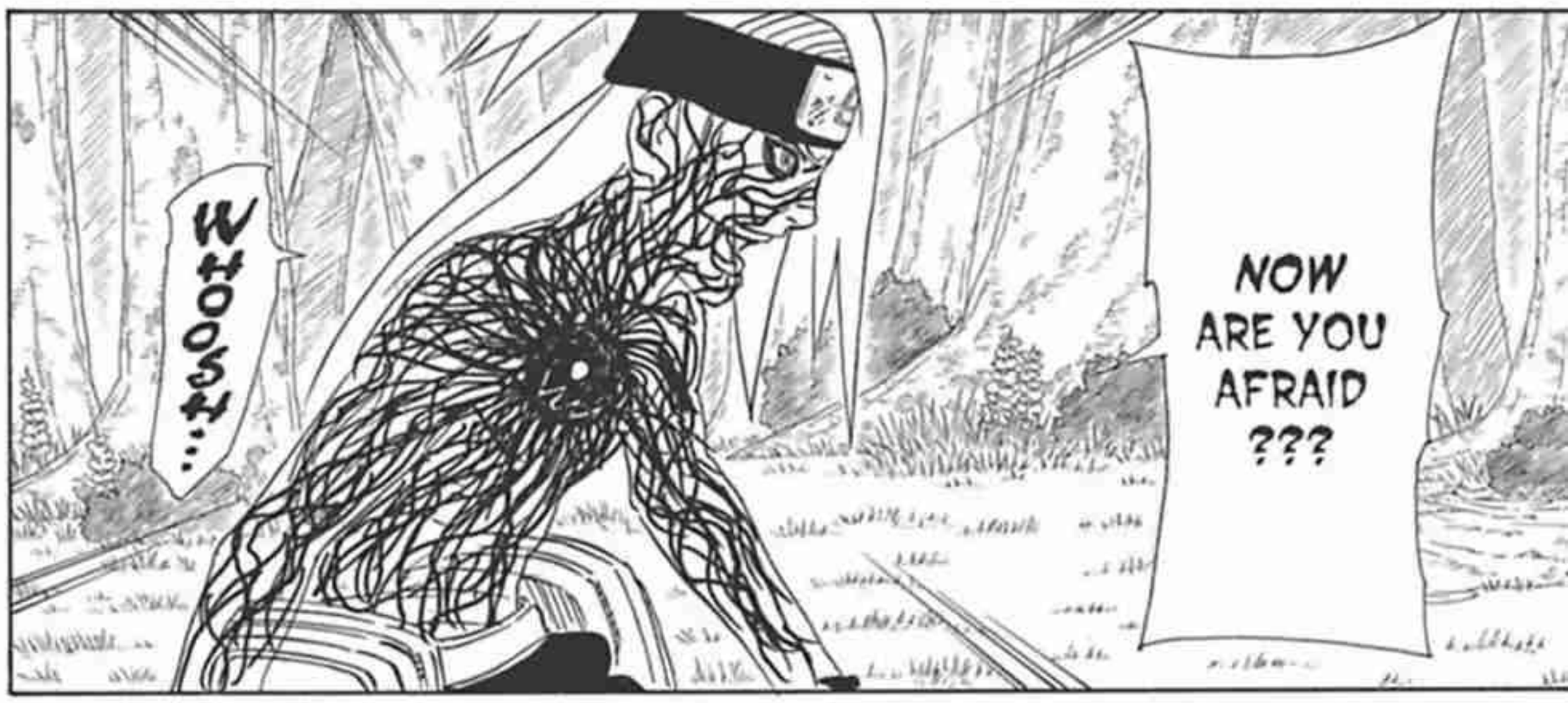
!

SORRY, TOBI...

FOR WITH MY DEATH— I SHALL BECOME ART!

...YOU WILL FINALLY DIE!!

AND WHEN I DO, UCHIHA SASUKE...



READ THIS WAY
WHOOSH...
CRY YOUR HEART OUT!!
RECOIL IN DESPAIR!!
COWER IN AWE!!
...
BECAUSE MY ART...
KRAKLE
KRAKLE

...IS AN EXPLO-SION !!!
KA
BO

BZZZZZZZ

Number 363:

WHA...!

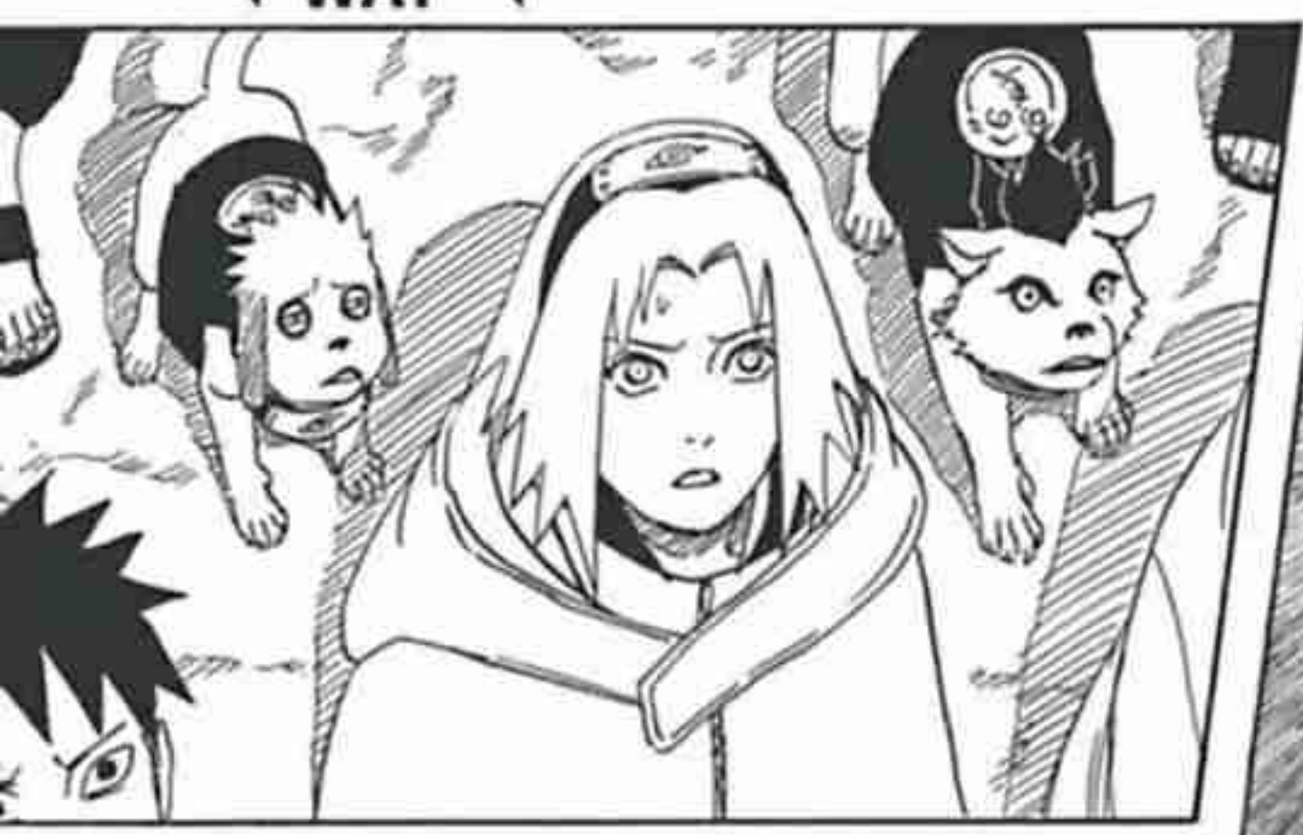
UGH!

BA-

B-

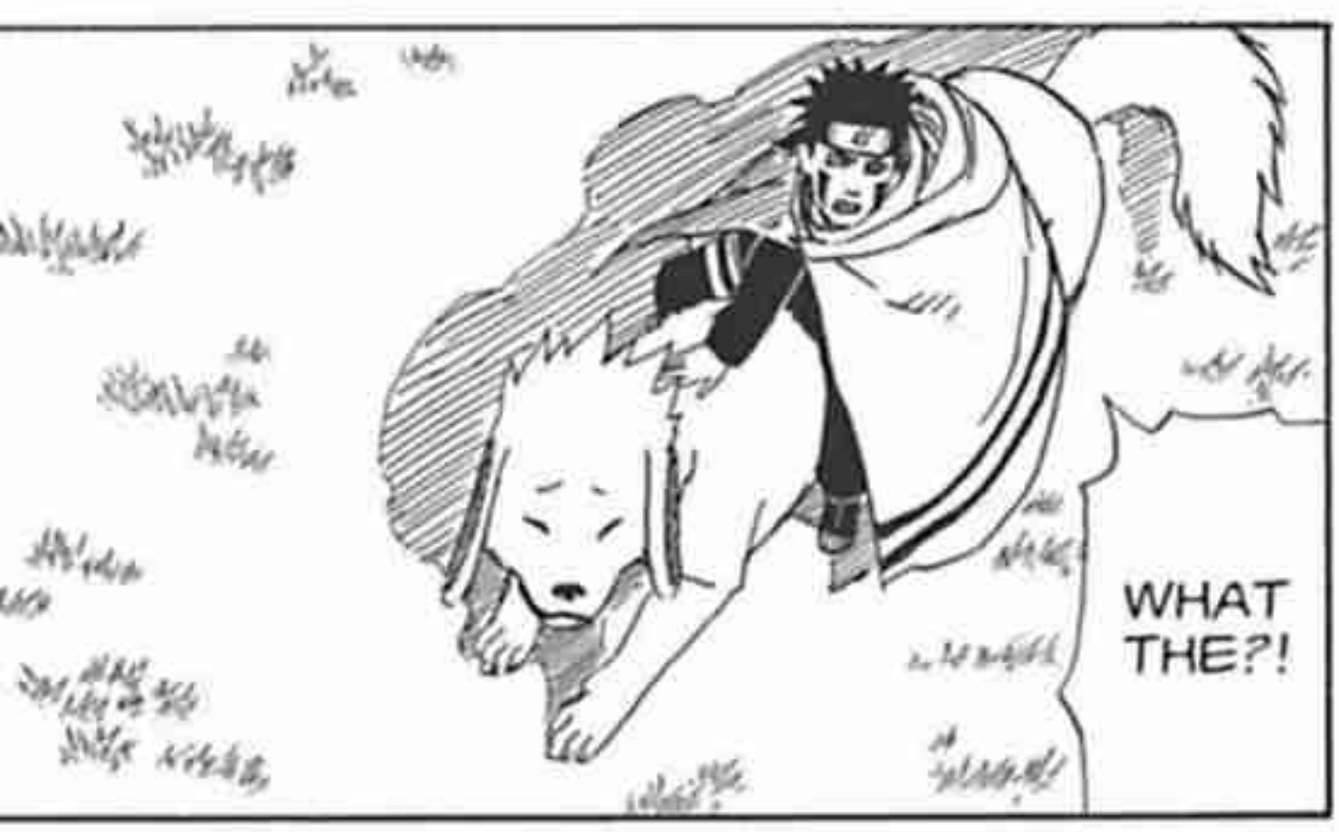
B-

BOOM

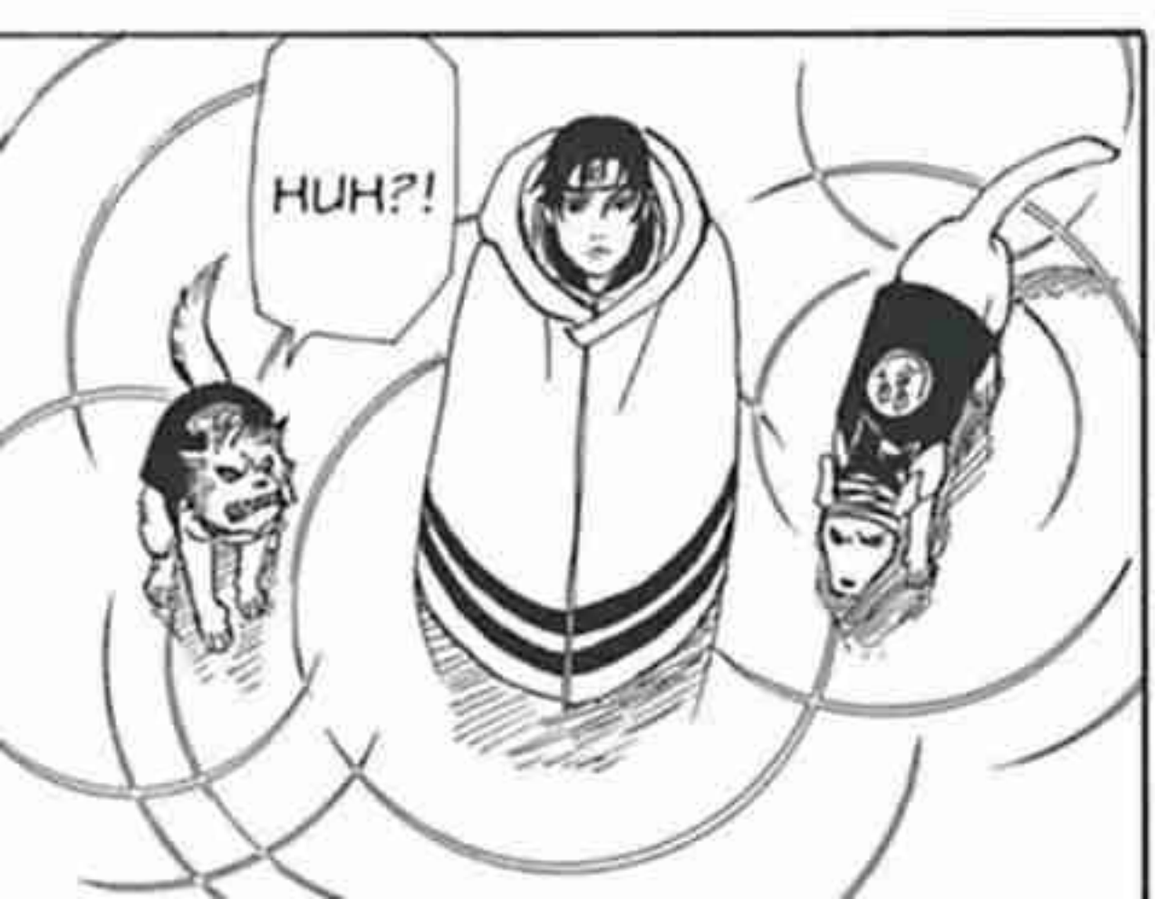


WHAT IS THAT ?!

KAKASHI ?


WHAT THE?!

_IT'S THAT AKATSUKI MEMBER ...
FROM THE FEEL OF THAT CHAKRA...


HUH?!

HMM?

...WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?

I CAN'T SENSE SASUKE'S CHAKRA...!!
...!

...

PROBABLY GOT CAUGHT UP IN IT...
...SINCE I BELIEVE HE WAS WITHIN THE BLAST RANGE...

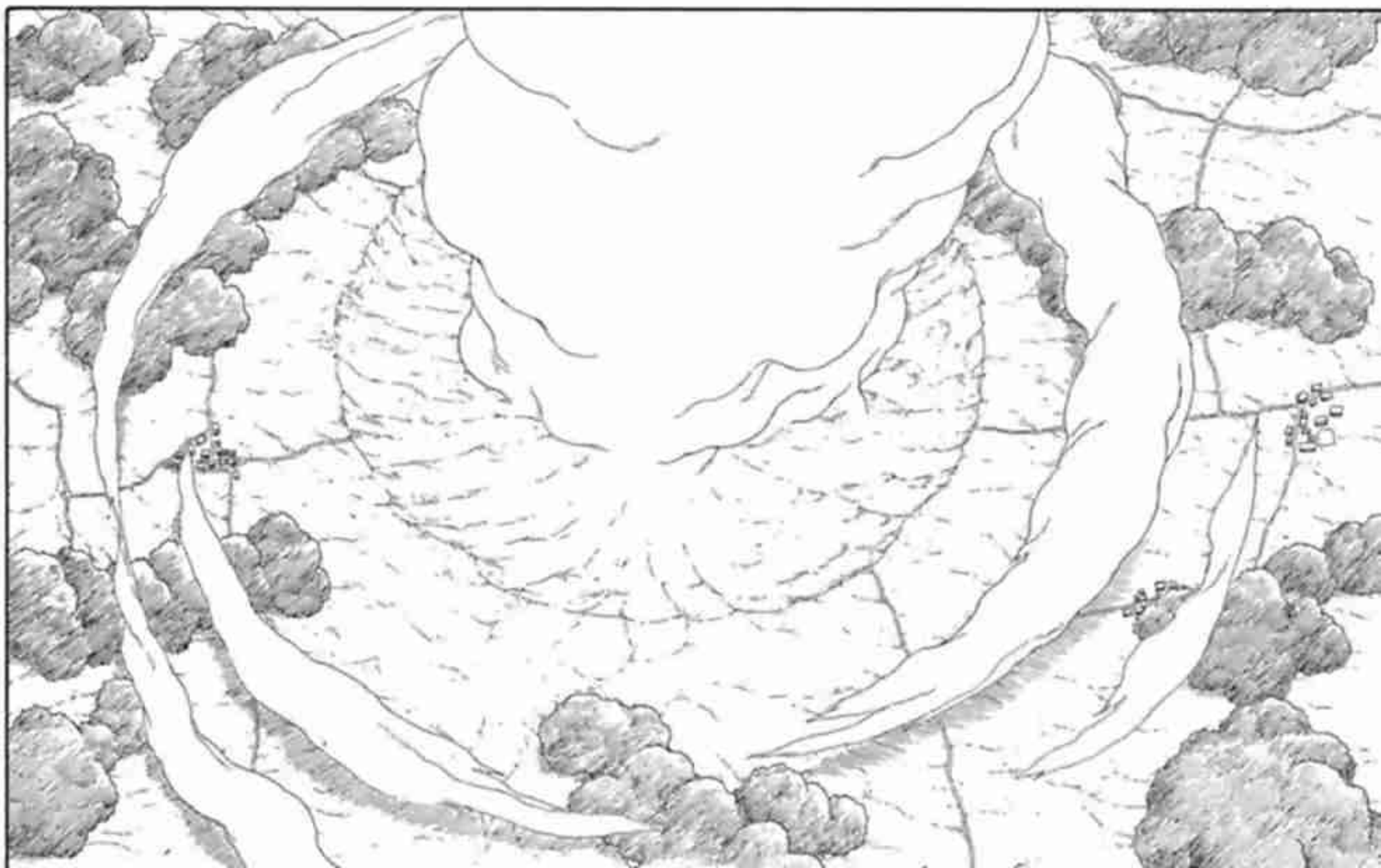
BUT WHAT ABOUT TOBI?
THAT DEIDARA... HE'S BLOWN HIMSELF UP...

OH NO...!
FLAP
...WHICH IS NEAR OUR RENDEZ-VOUS POINT...

WHISP...
...JUST AS I FEARED!

HUP

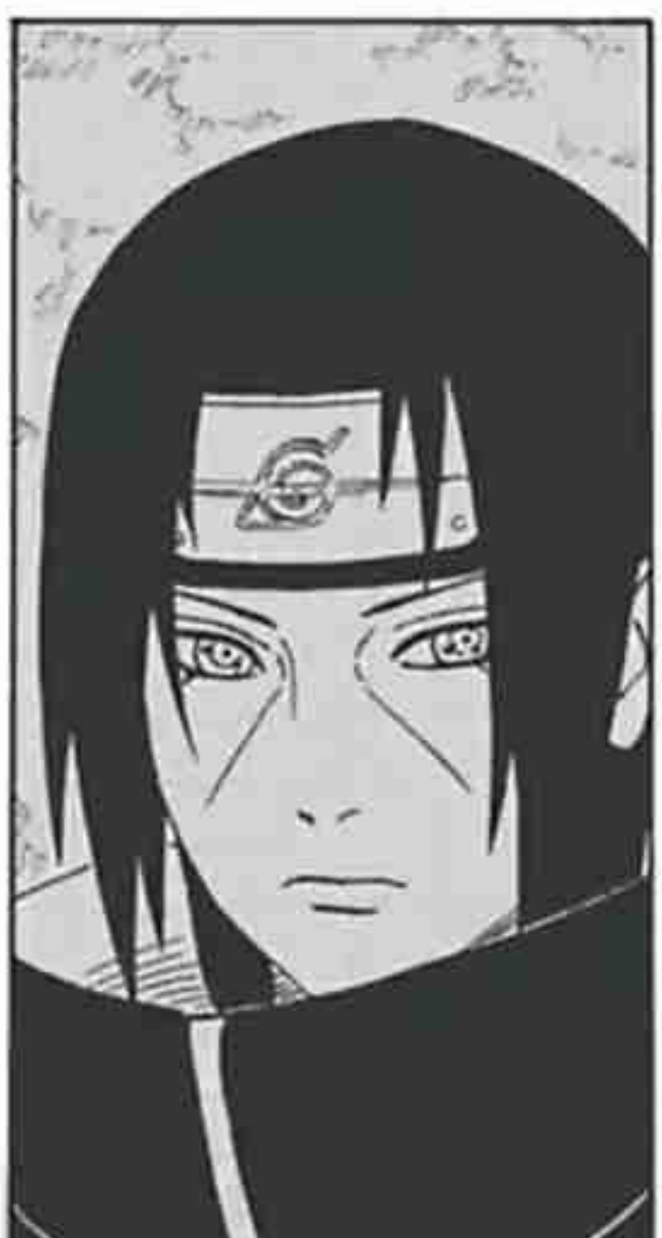
RRRRRRUMBLE



ZWOO...

AND I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF THE STRON-GER ONES.
YES, BUT IT'S COST US ANOTHER MEMBER...

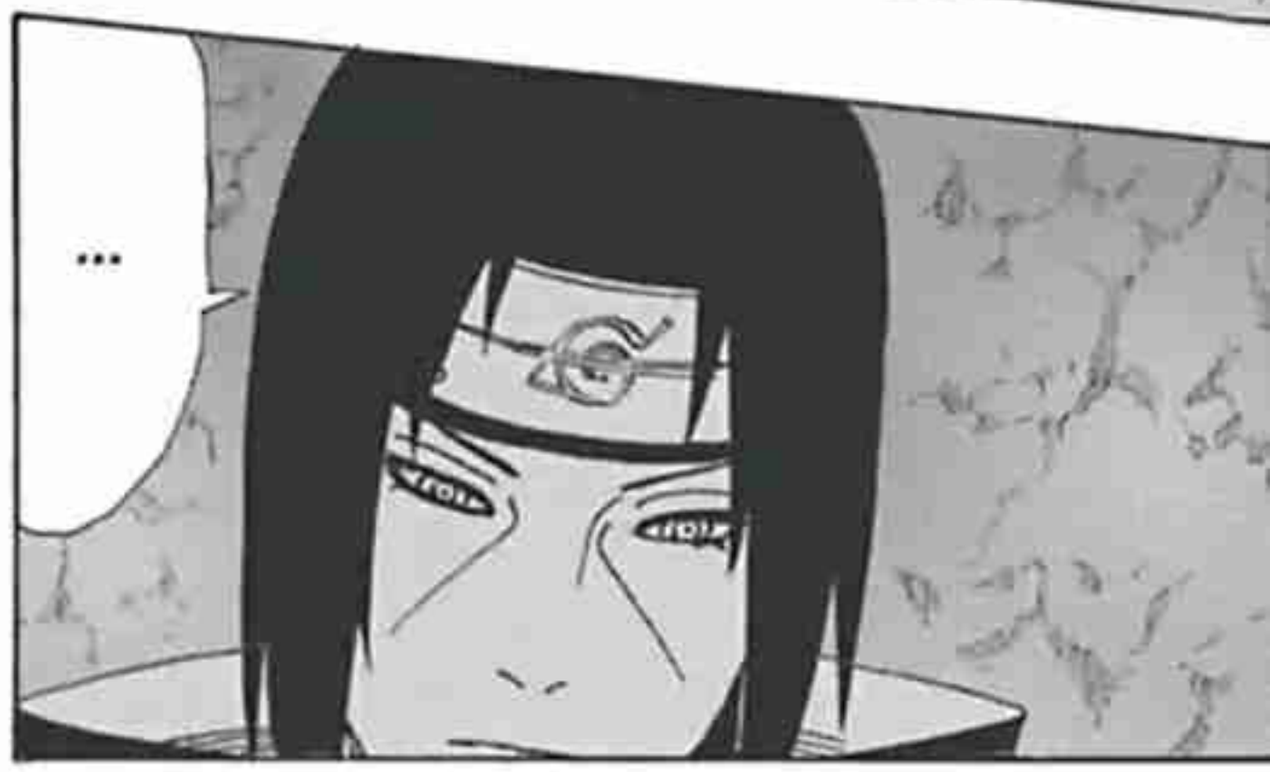
AT LEAST HE WENT OUT WITH A BANG.
ZWOOO
DEIDARA'S DEAD.



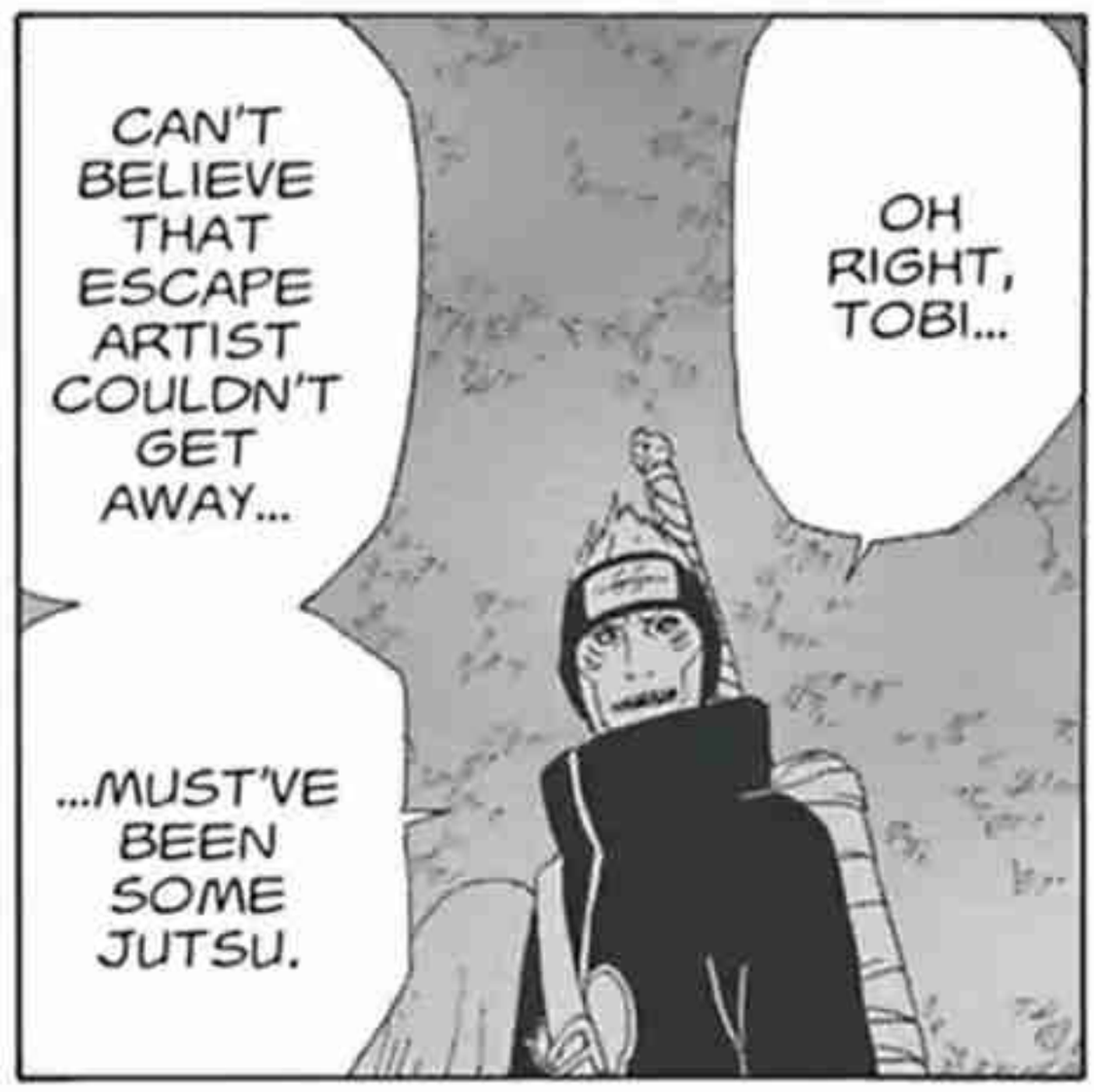
HOW-EVER...
SASUKE.

SASUKE, OR THE NINE TAILS' JINCHÛRIKI ?
SO WHO DID HIM IN...?

...IT APPEARS SASUKE HAS DIED AS WELL.

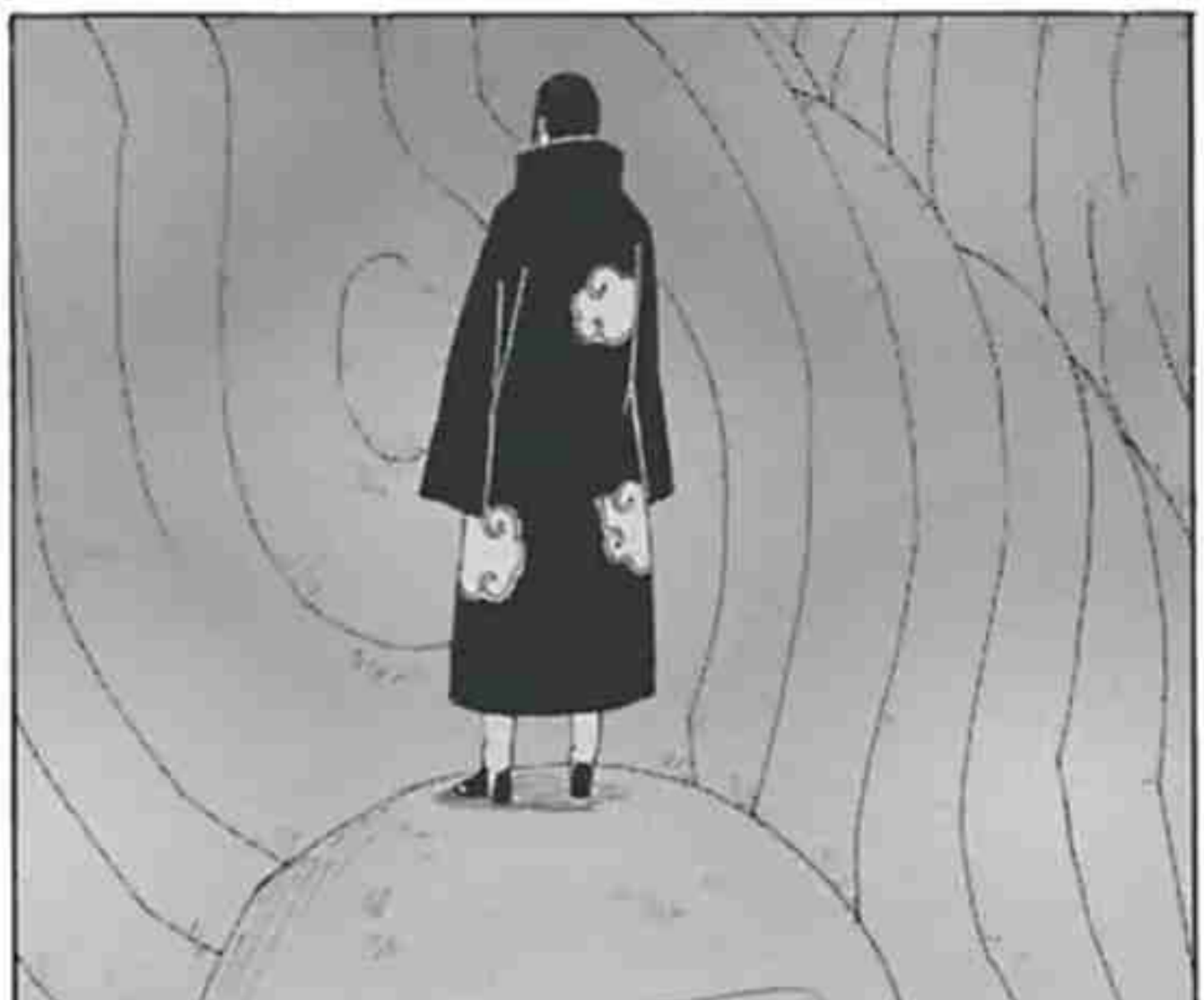


THE LOSS OF DEIDARA, HOWEVER, IS UNFORTU-NATE...
NO MATTER... THAT ONE IS EASY ENOUGH TO REPLACE.


CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ESCAPE ARTIST COULDN'T GET AWAY...
...MUST'VE BEEN SOME JUTSU.
OH RIGHT, TOBI...

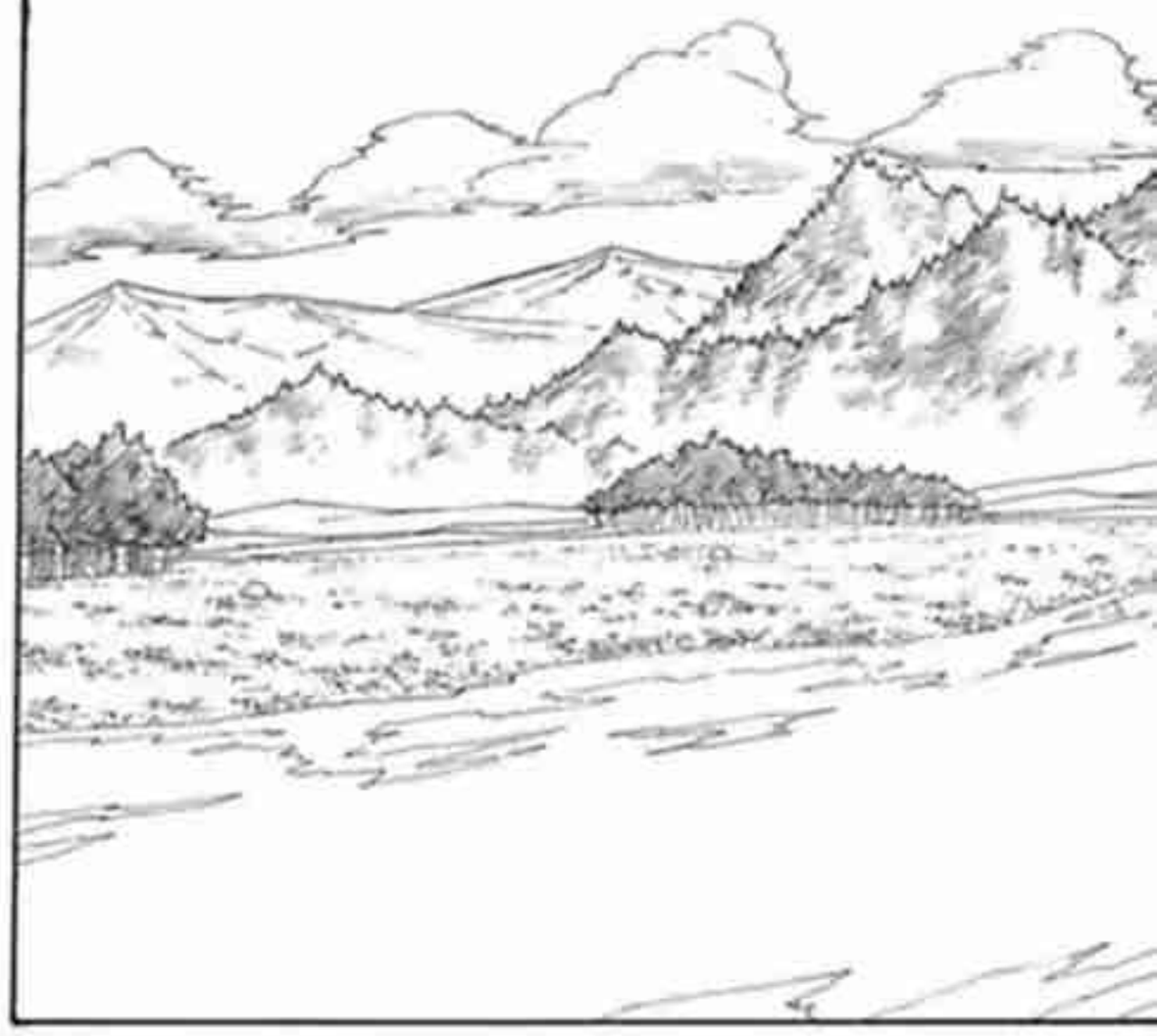
LET US TRY TO MOURN DEIDARA QUIETLY.
I MUST GO...
ZWOO

...SO HE WAS QUITE TALENTED IN HIS OWN RIGHT.
AND YET, TOBI MANAGED TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD OF THIS GLOOMY ORGANIZA-TION...

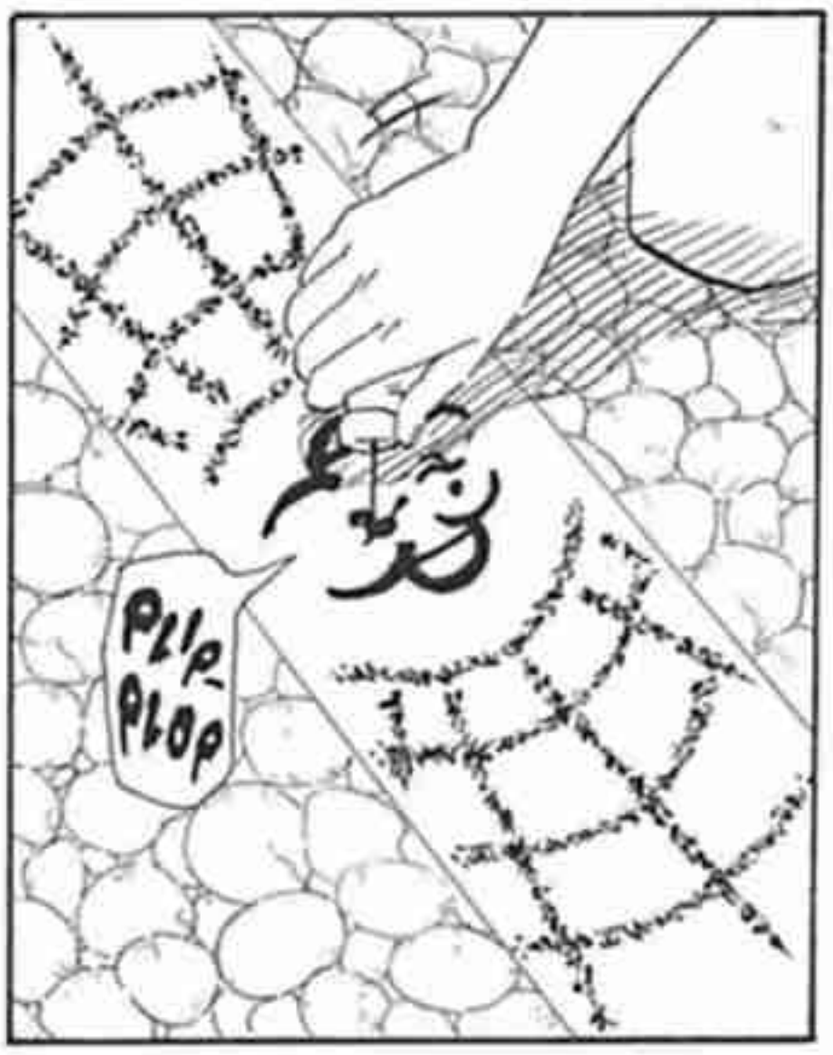


ZWO!

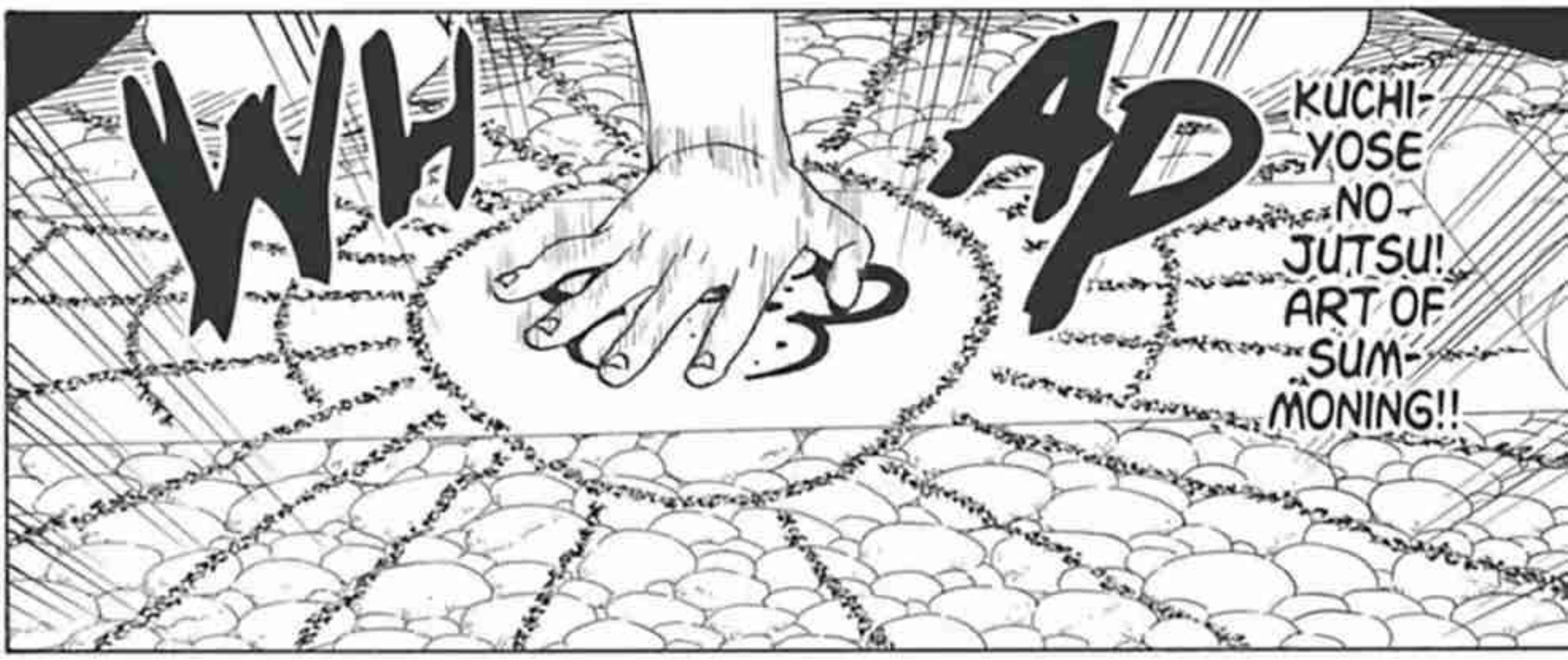
SWISH

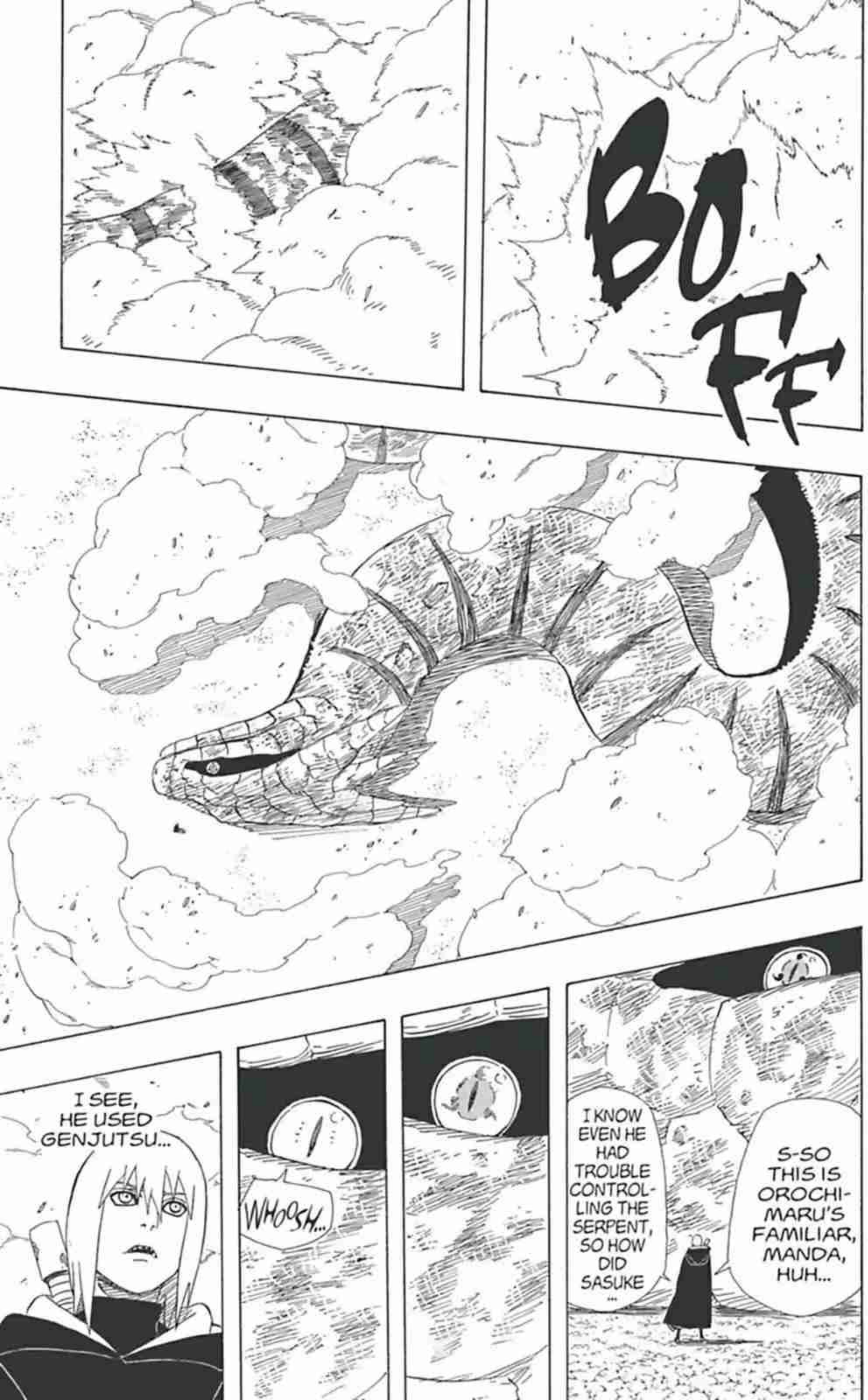


ALL RIGHT...


PLIP-PLOP

POP


WHAP
KUCHI-YOSE NO-JUTSU! ART OF SUM-MONING!!


BO
I SEE, HE USED GENJUTSU...
WHOOSH...
I KNOW EVEN HE HAD TROUBLE CONTROLLING THE SERPENT, SO HOW DID SASUKE ...
S-SO THIS IS OROCHIMARU'S FAMILIAR, MANDA, HUH...

UGH...

YOU... USED... ME...

WHO WERE YOU FIGHT-ING?

...YOU... INSOLENT STRIP-LING...

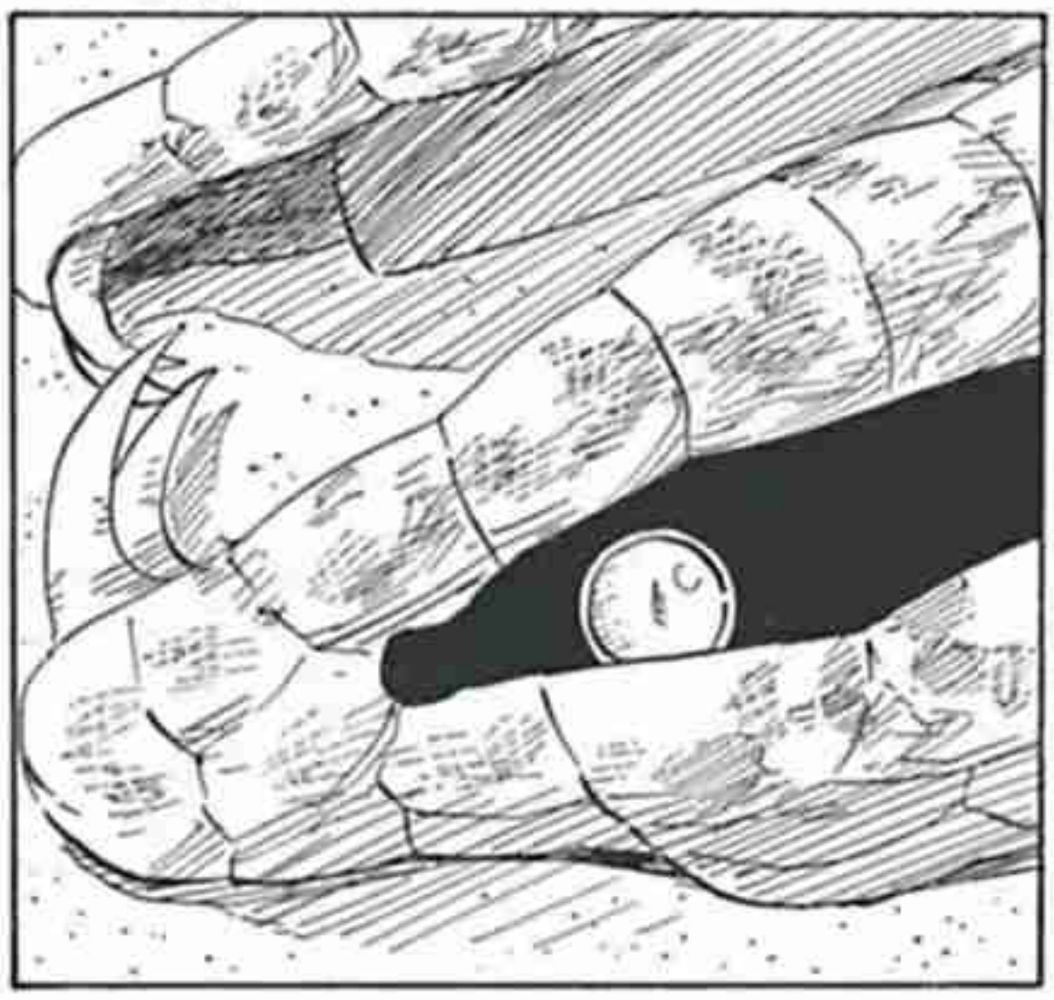
SHUP

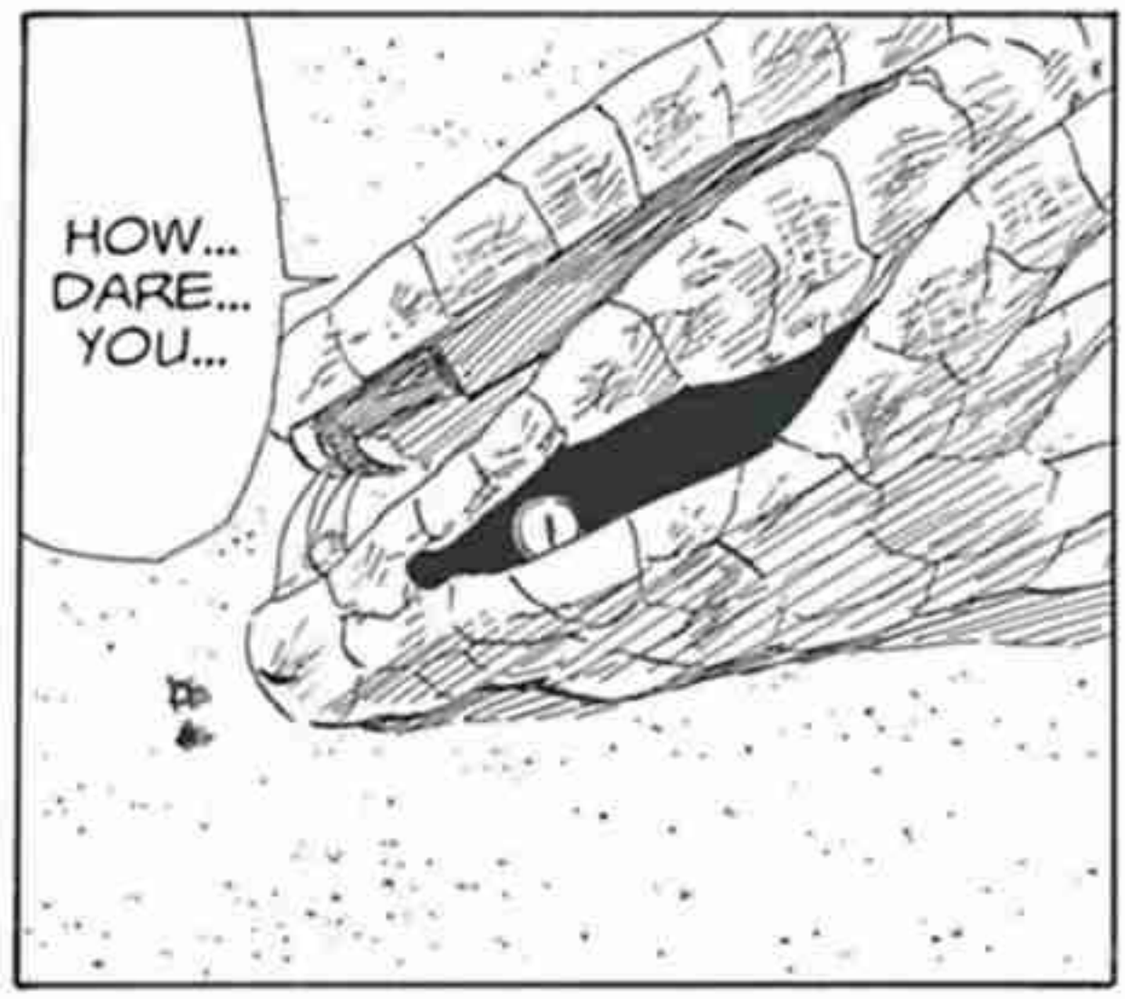
HEY, YOU'RE ALL BEAT UP!

RRRNH

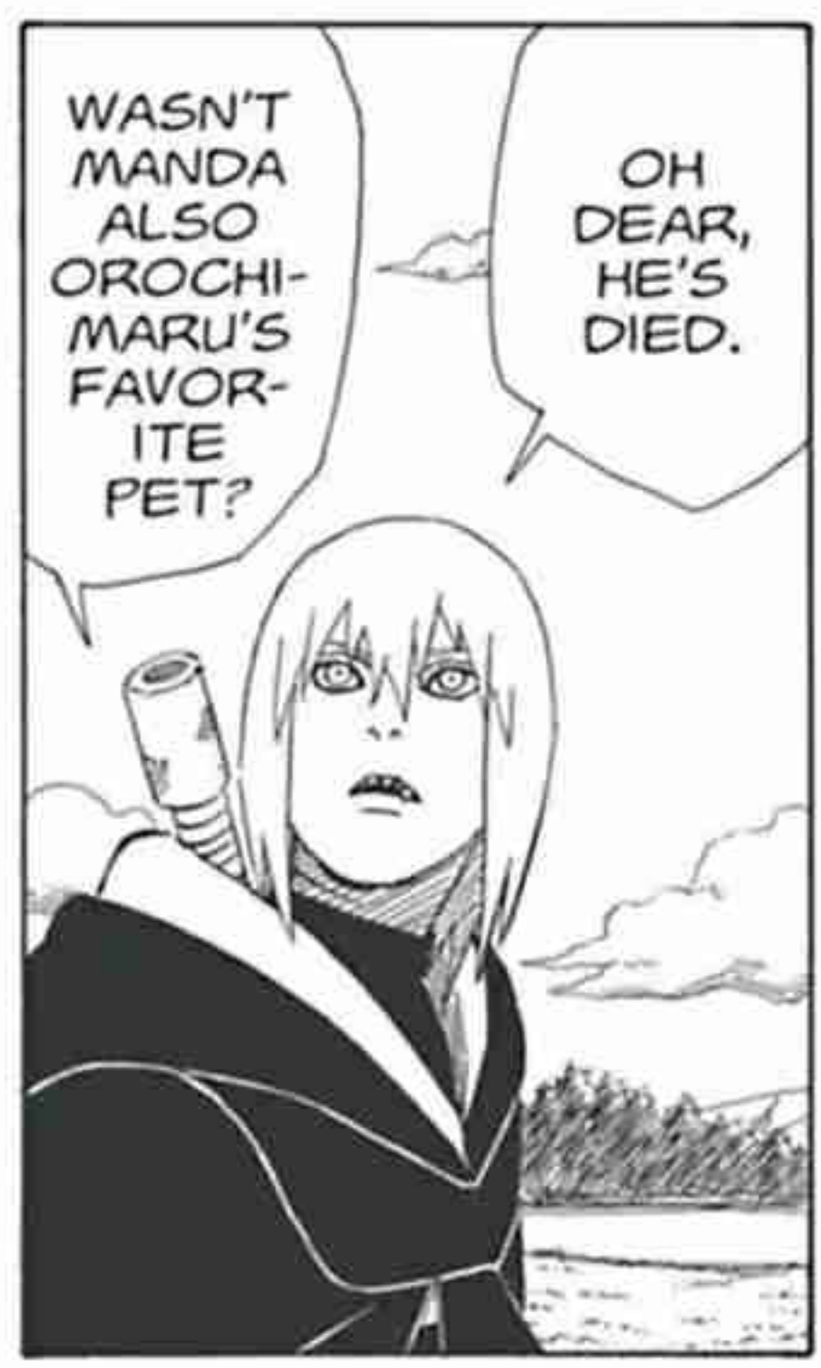
THUP

READ
THIS
WAY




HOW... DARE... YOU...

YOU OUGHT TO TREAT ANIMALS BETTER ...
...AND NOT FORCE GEN-JUTSU ON THEM...


OH DEAR, HE'S DIED.
WASN'T MANDA ALSO OROCHI-MARU'S FAVOR-ITE PET?

THERE YOU ARE!!
!
!

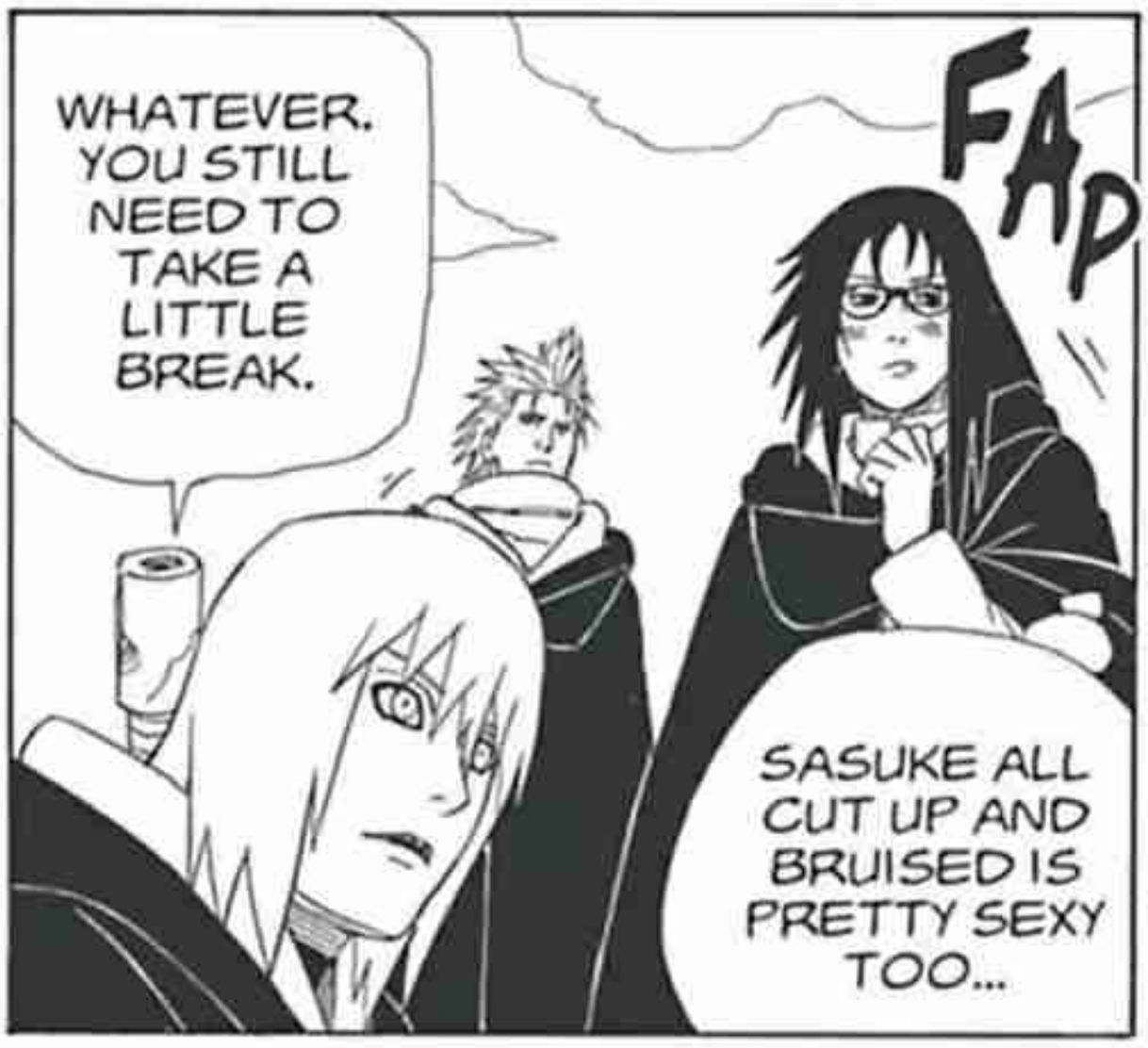
I HAD NO CHOICE ...
THERE WAS NO TIME.

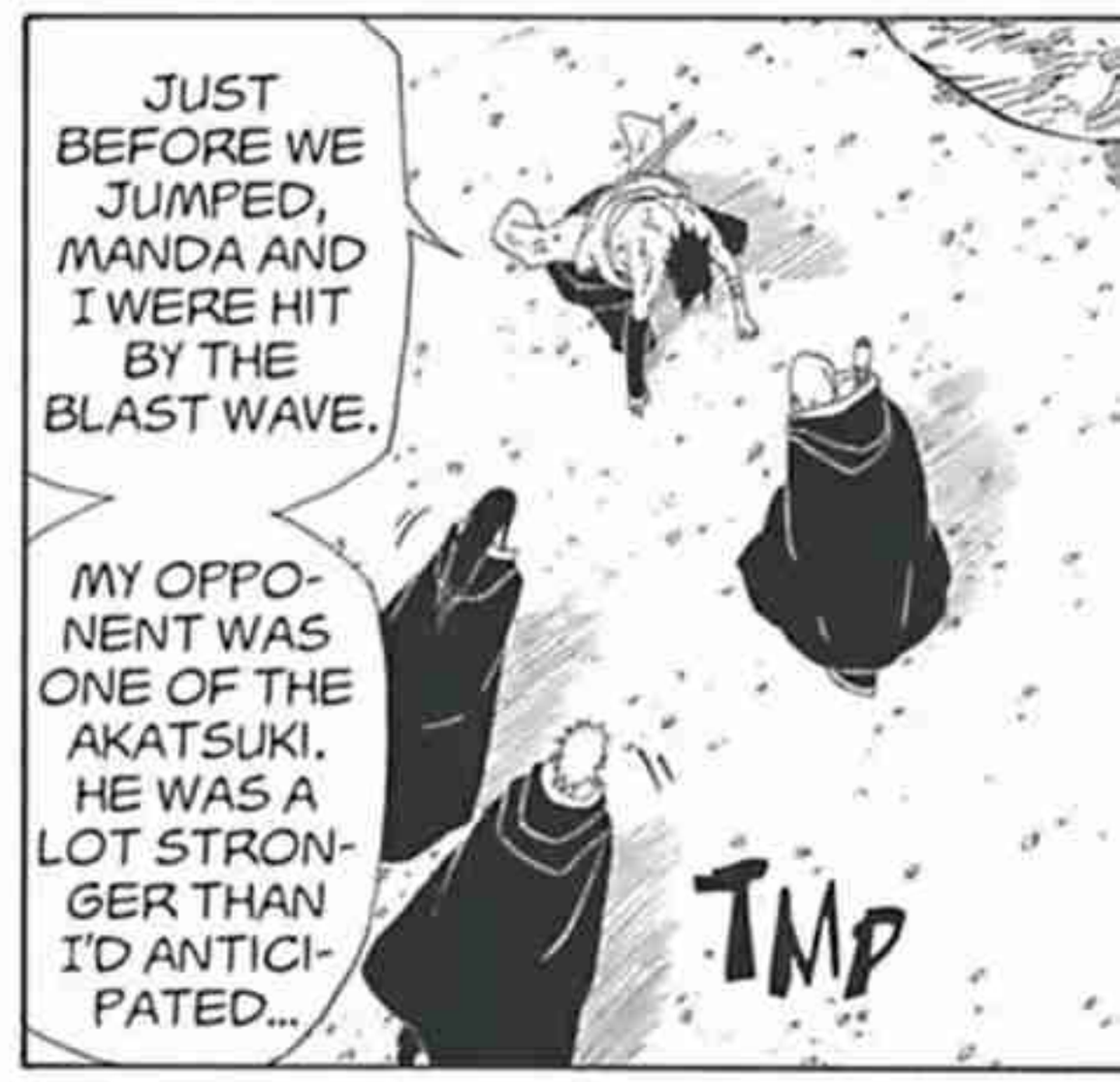
SHOOM

YOUR CHAKRA SUDDENLY DISAP-PEARED! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK...

...BUT I GUESS YOU WERE TELE-PORTING, HUH?

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HERE.



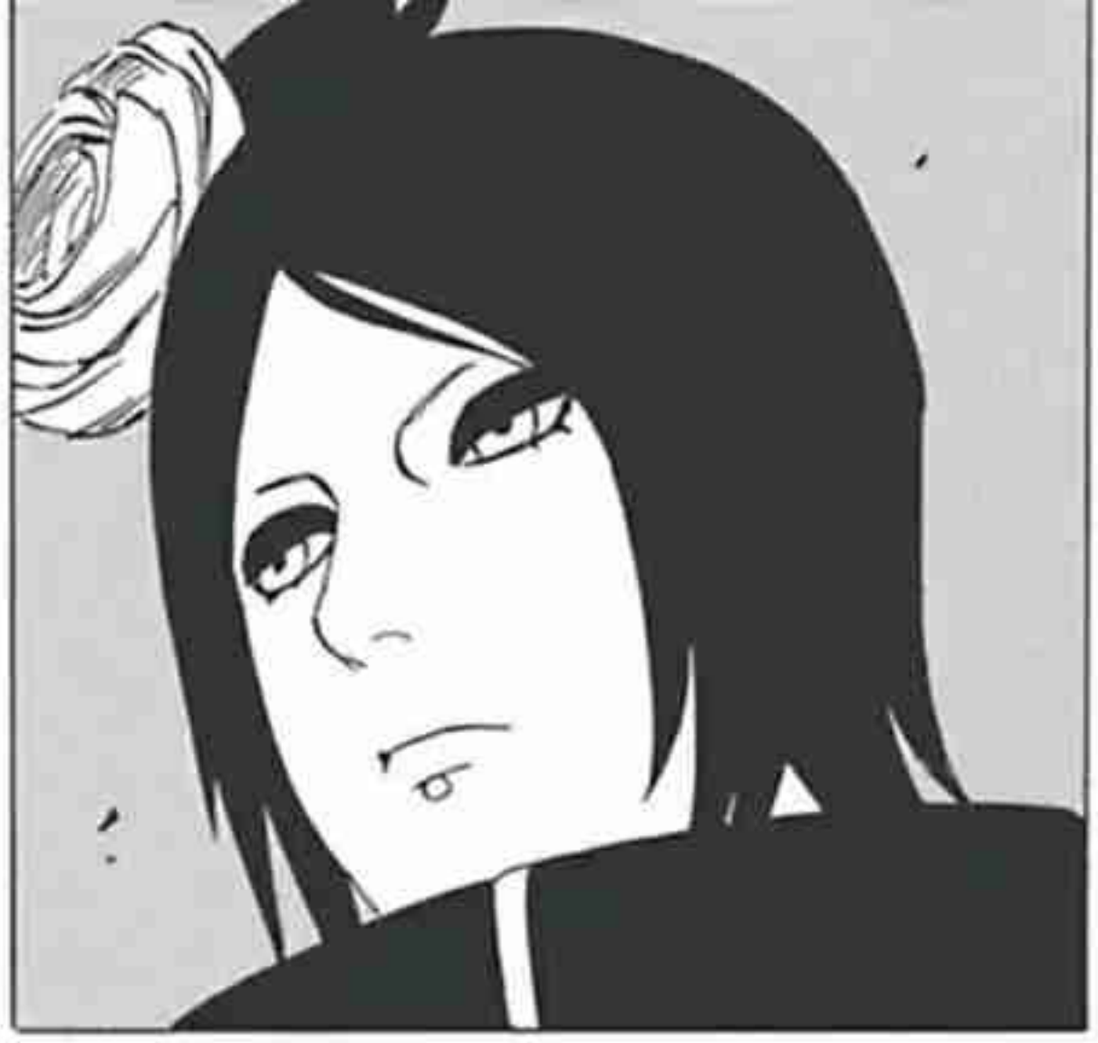


OROCHIMARU'S ILLNESS MADE HIM WEAK.

THAT'S ALL...

PATHETIC!! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY TOOK DOWN OROCHI-MARU!

Тир



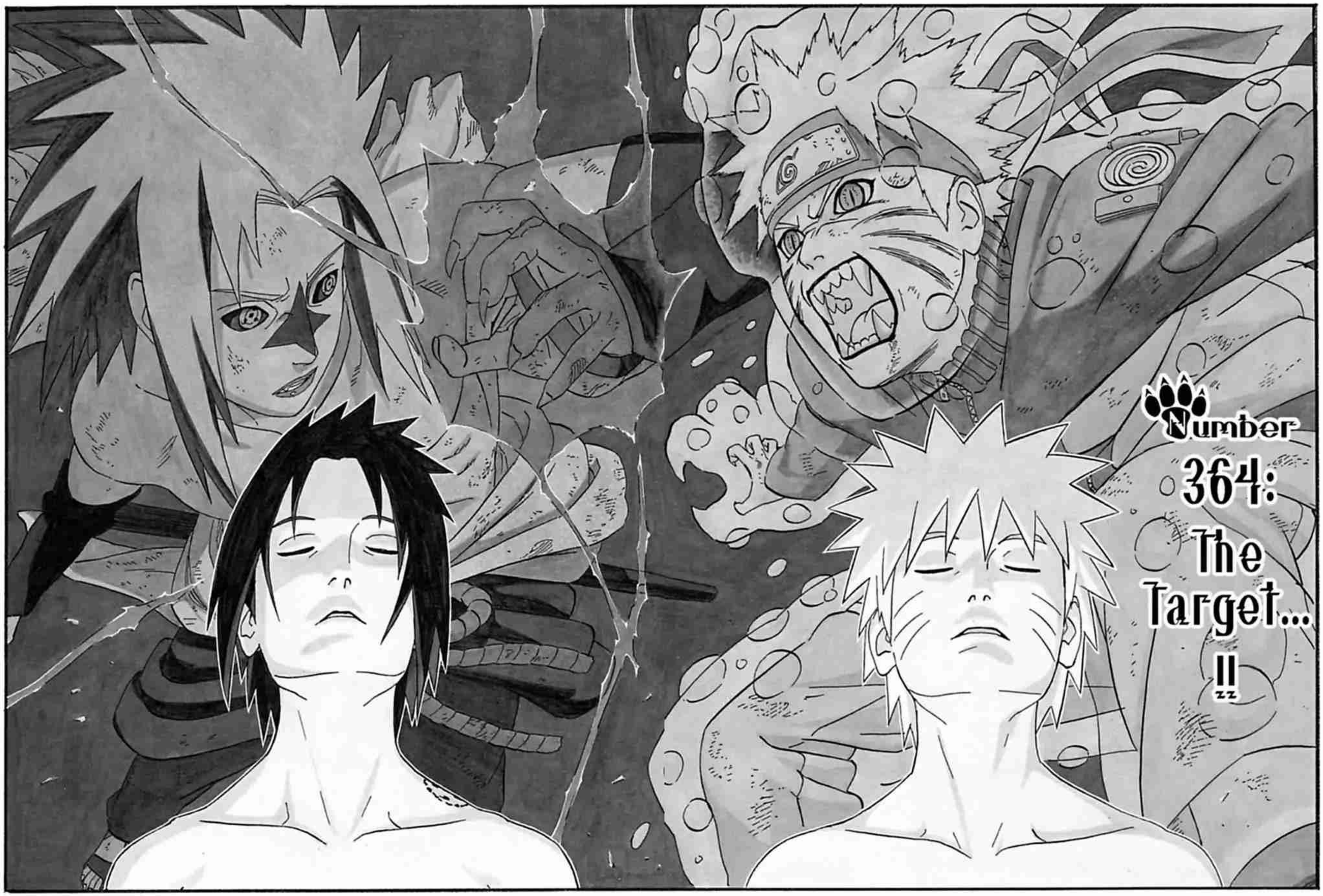
NO

...HIS EYES WILL EVENTUALLY SURPASS ITACHI'S...
HE'S COMING ALONG NICELY...
HIS SHARINGAN IS AT FULL POWER...

SO... WHAT OF SASUKE?

AS LEADER, I WILL NOT TOLERATE FAILURE.
YOU HUNT IT.

THEN THE TIME HAS COME.
I'M SURE HIS MIND IS MADE UP... SINCE HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH LONGER.
WHAT ABOUT NINE TAILS?


Number
364:
The
Target...
!!
zz

NARUTO

VOOSH

YOU KNOW, A STORM LIKE THIS IS UNUSUAL AROUND HERE THIS TIME OF YEAR...
IT'S NOT LETTING UP.
VOOSH

...

SPLISH
VOOSH

!
VOOSH
SWISH

YOU'RE GONNA CATCH SOME-THING IF WE STAY OUT IN THIS...

VOOSH

BUT FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE CRYING.

MAN, ITACHI, YOU'RE SO COLD I DON'T EVEN HAVE A CLUE...
...WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD RIGHT NOW...

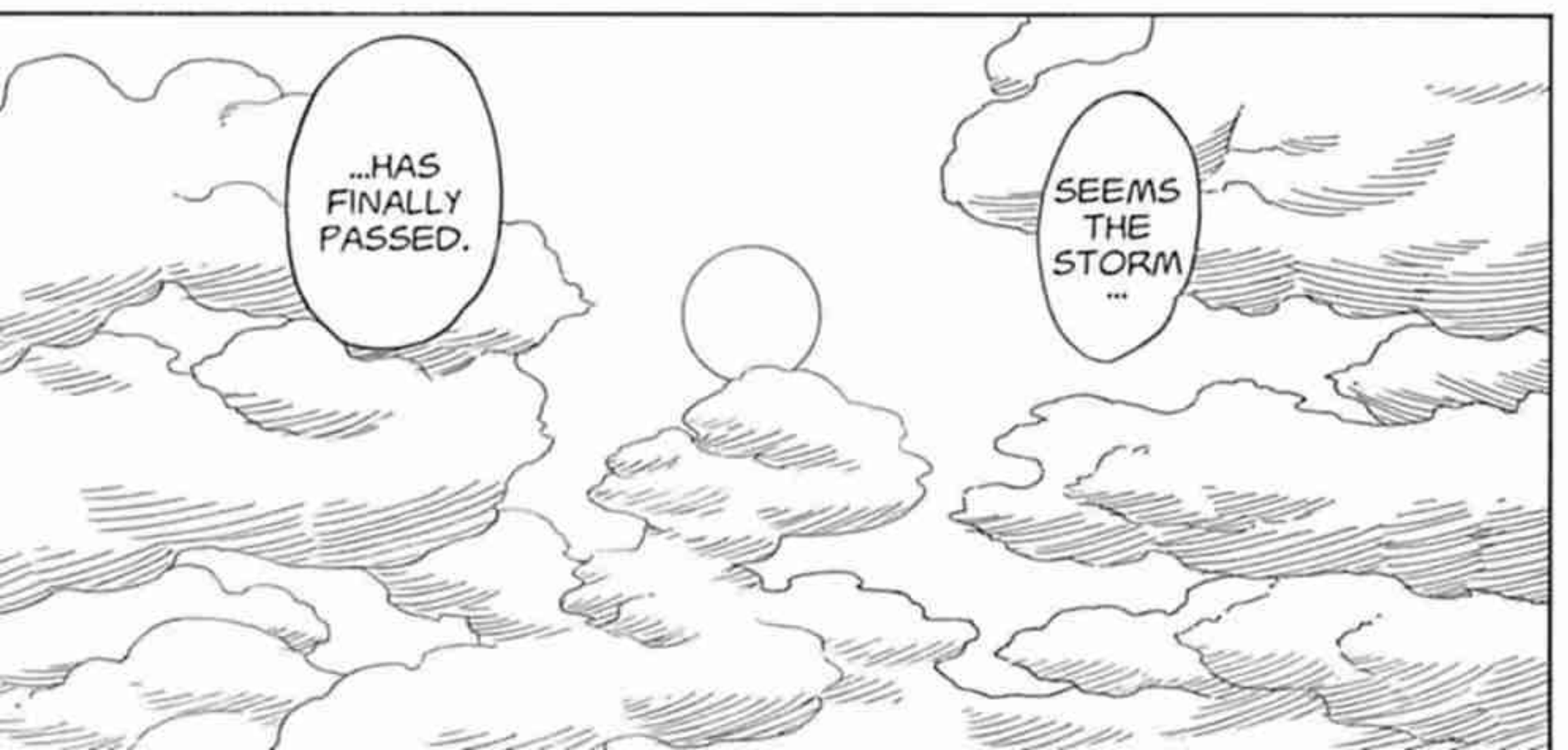
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THE UCHIHA CLAN...
SORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER...

PITTER
PITTER

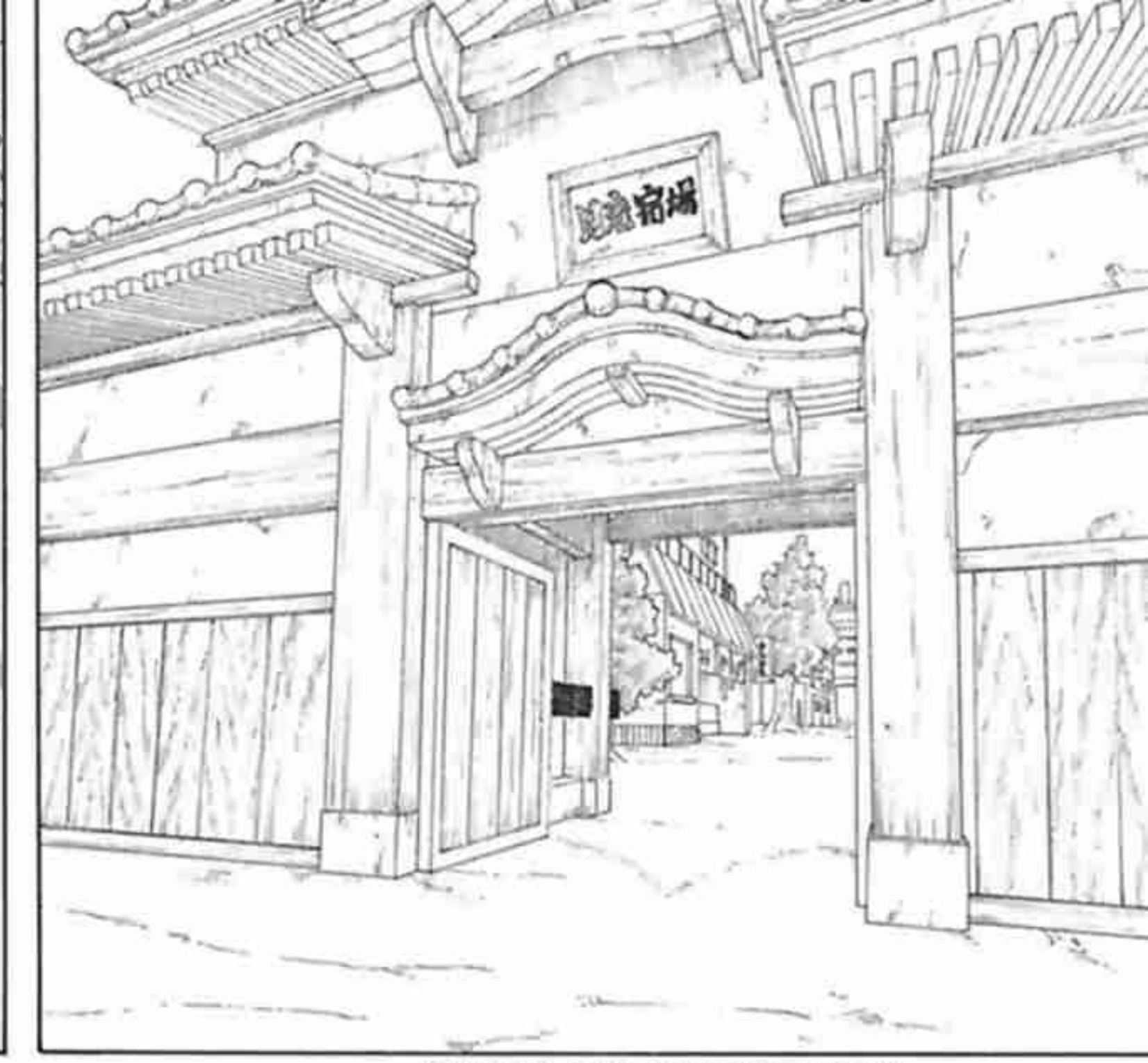
NO...
?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...

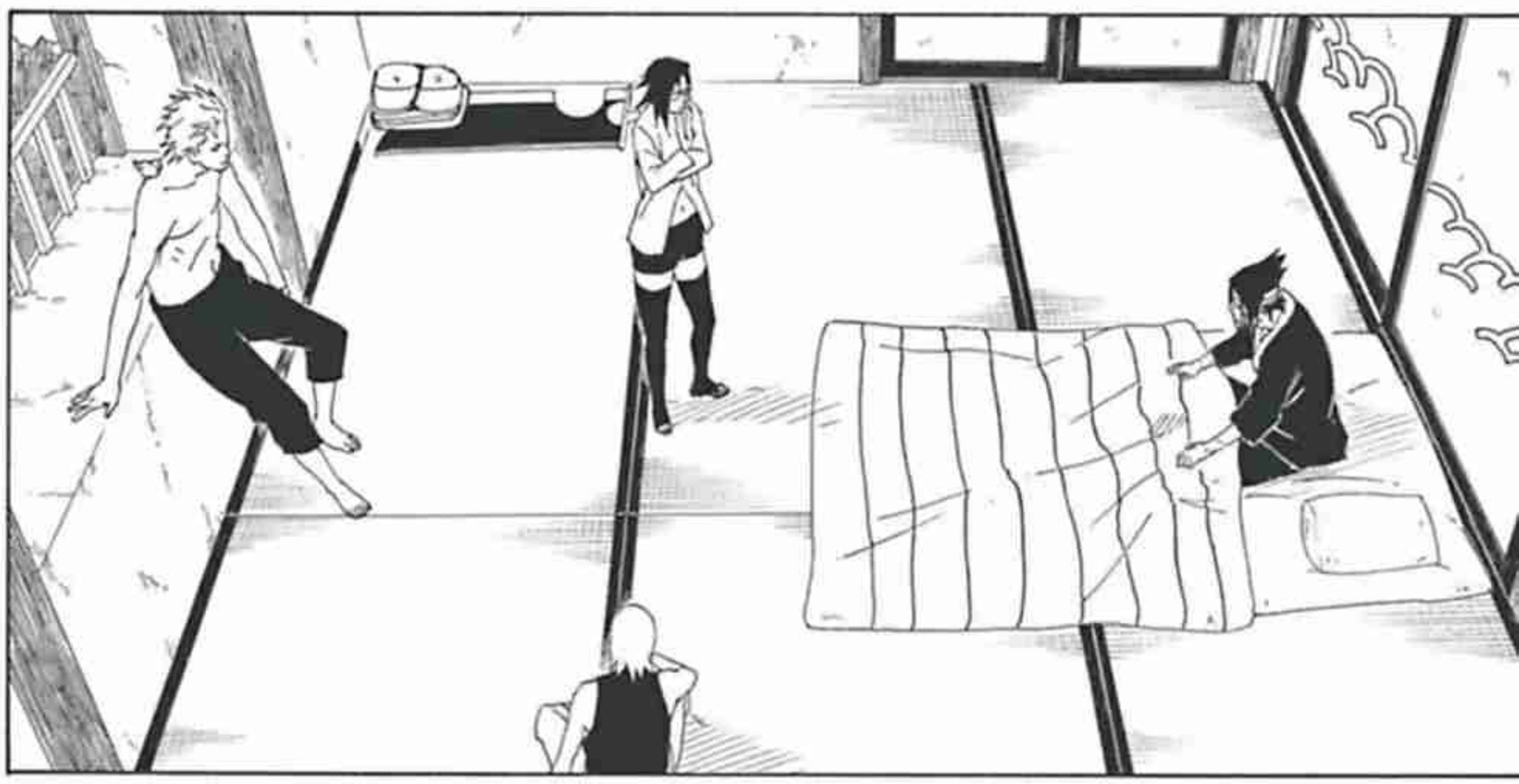
HE'S NOT DEAD...
...AND BE-SIDES...
PITTER


...HAS FINALLY PASSED.
SEEMS THE STORM ...

(INN OKOSHI)

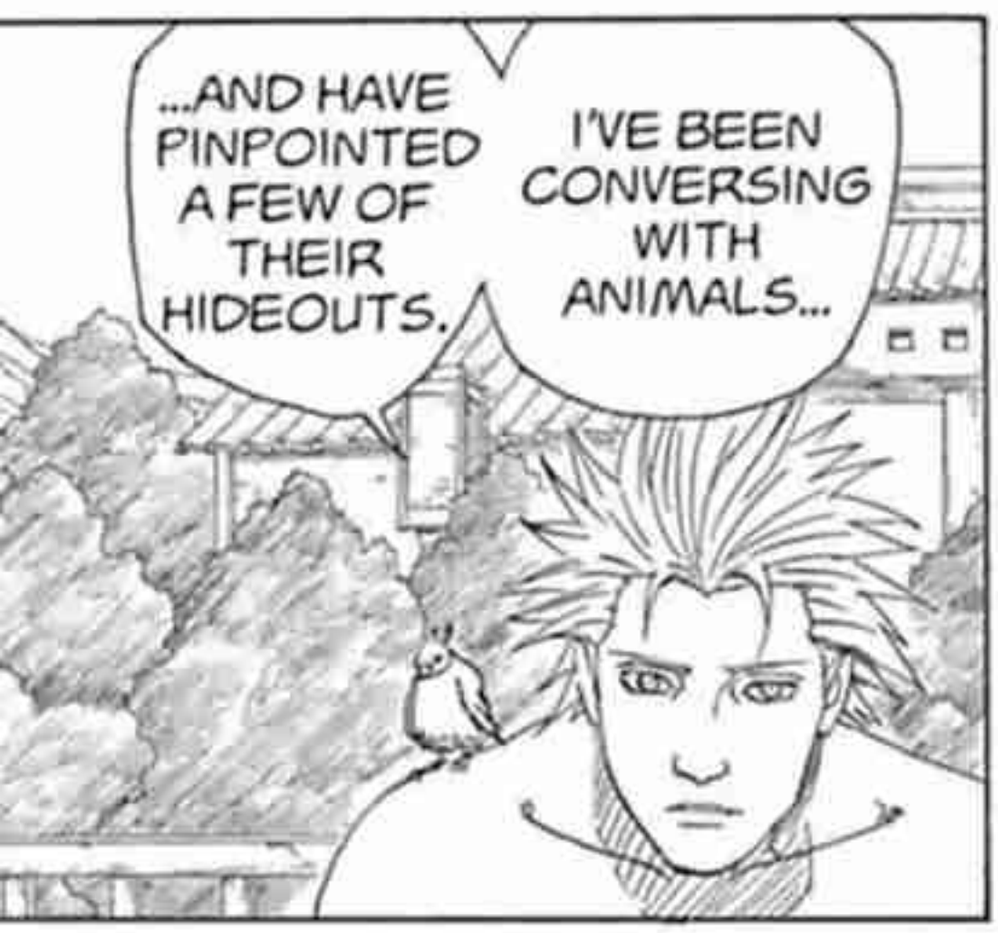


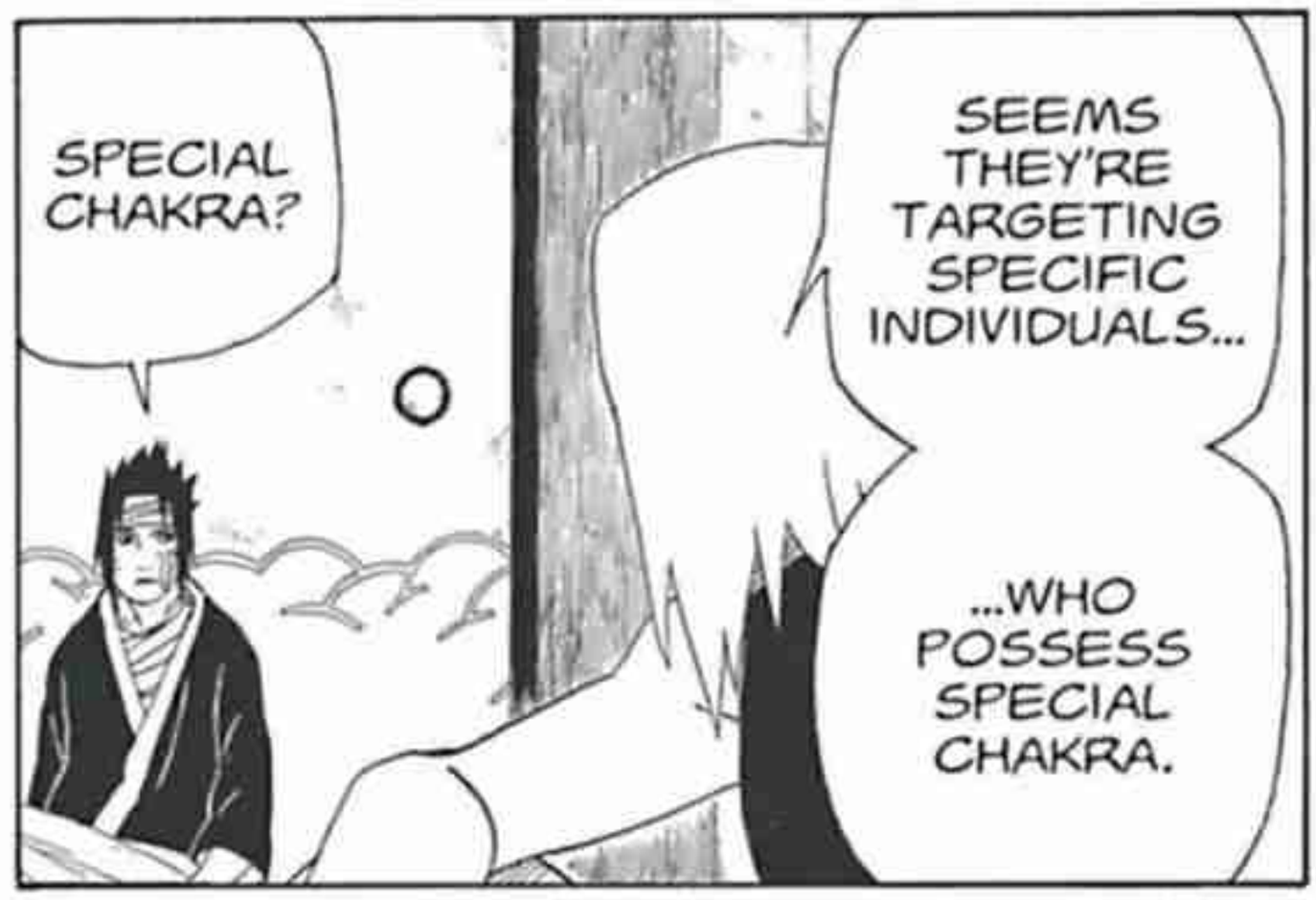
(NIKKO RELAY STATION)



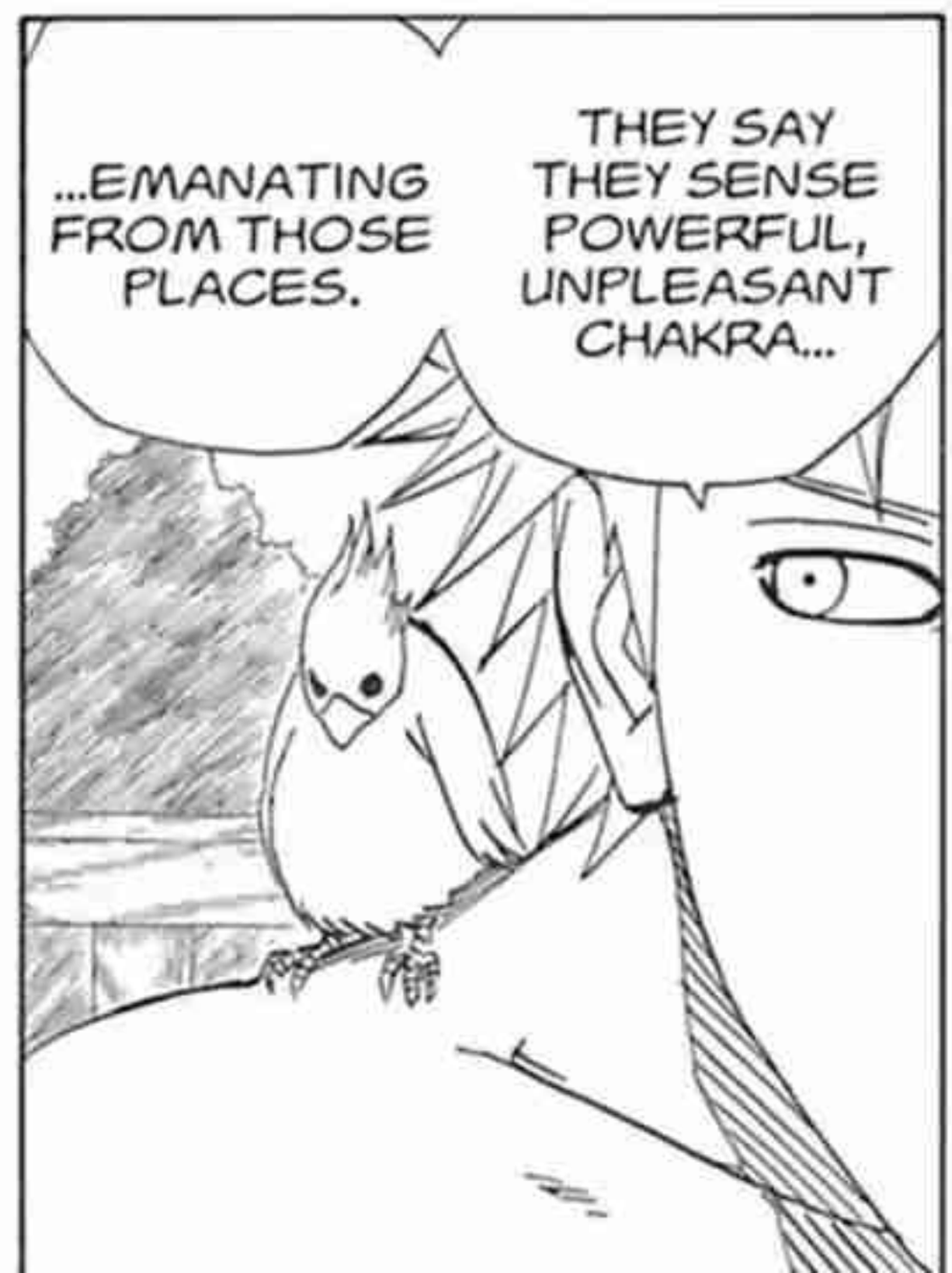
...

WE WERE ABLE TO TRACK DOWN SOME GENERAL INTEL ON THE AKATSUKI...
...BUT NOTHING PERTAINING DIRECTLY TO ITACHI.


...AND HAVE PINPOINTED A FEW OF THEIR HIDEOUTS.
I'VE BEEN CONVERSING WITH ANIMALS...


SPECIAL CHAKRA?
SEEMS THEY'RE TARGETING SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS...
...WHO POSSESS SPECIAL CHAKRA.

HUH... JUST LIKE KARIN.
WOW ...
...SO NOW EVEN LOWLY ANIMALS CAN SENSE CHAKRA, EH...


...EMANATING FROM THOSE PLACES.
THEY SAY THEY SENSE POWERFUL, UNPLEASANT CHAKRA...

SPLASH!!

WHAM!

GAH!!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!!

READ THIS WAY
!
NNH NNH
!
KILL...
SWOO...
I WANT TO KILL YOU... I DON'T CARE WHICH ONE OF YOU...
(INN OKOSHI)
民宿
お越
RRRRGAR!!!
SHOOT! JUGO'S KILLING IMPULSES HAVE BEEN AWAKENED!
THAP...
CALM DOWN, JUGO.
SWOOSH
SASUKE, HURRY UP!!

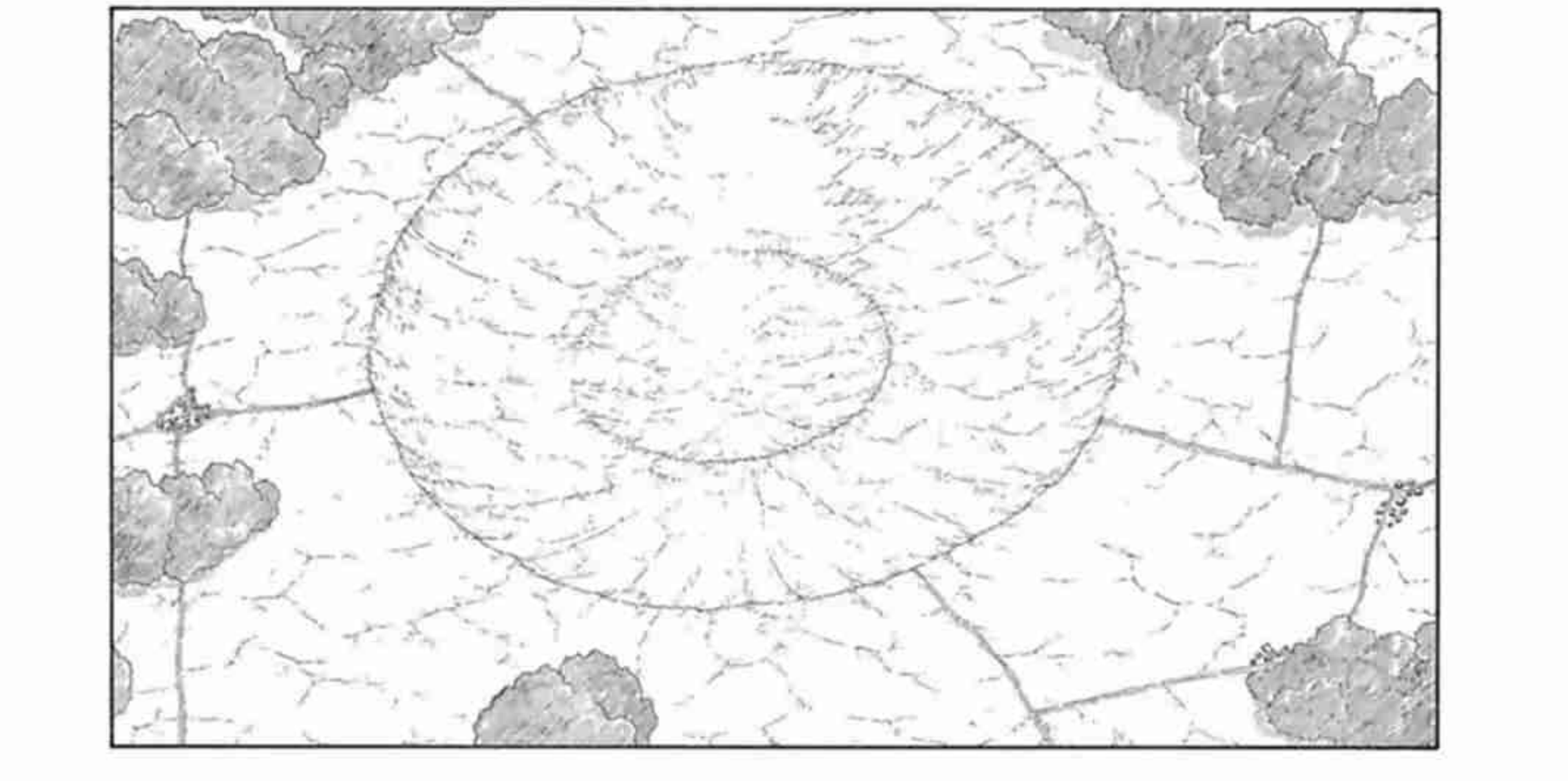
D...

!

NNNH
HUF
HUF
TMP
S-SO SORRY...

ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ...

READ
THIS
WAY

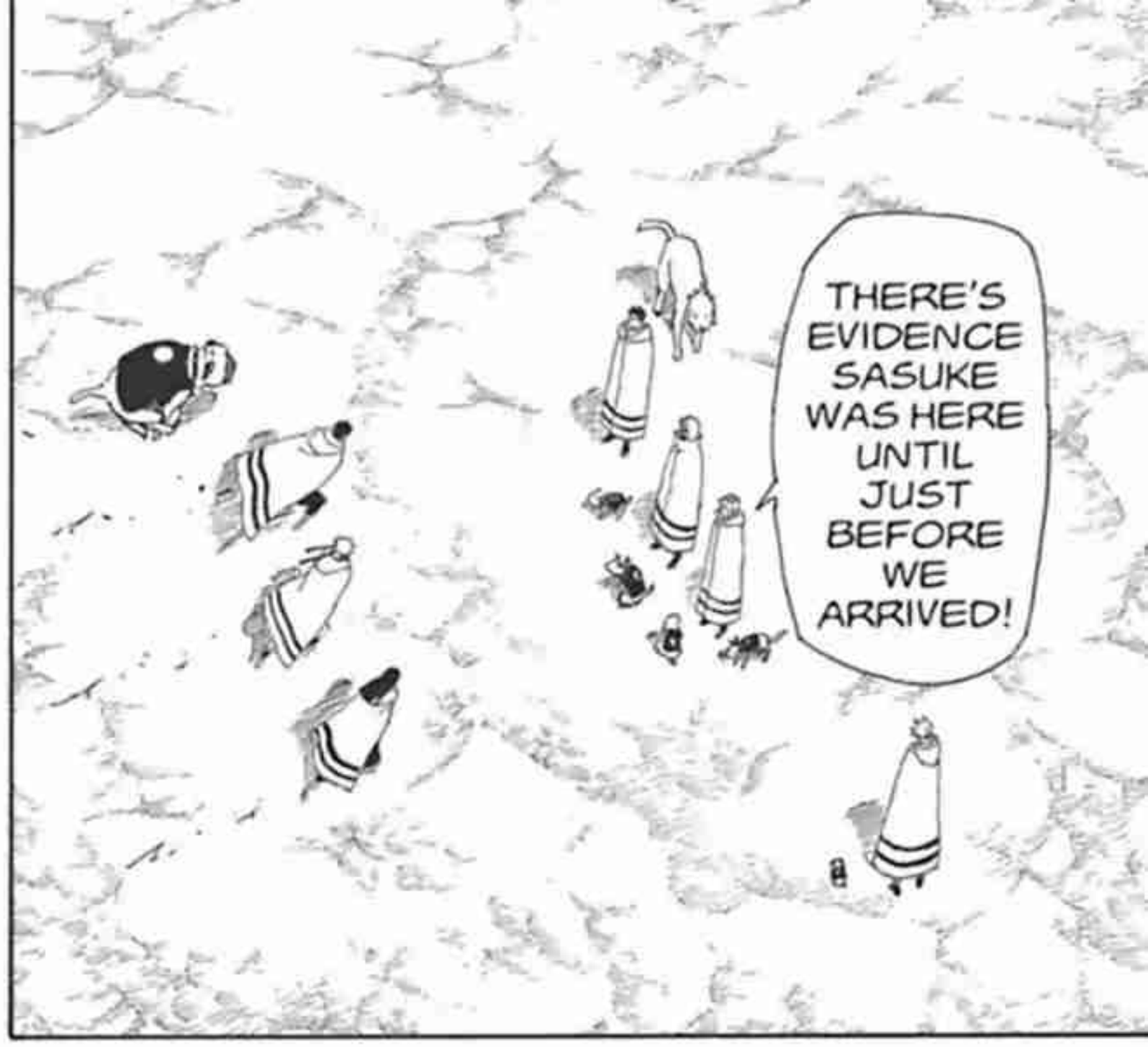


TMP TMP TMP

YEAH! BUT WHAT HAP-PENED?!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO GOT CURIOUS.
SHOOM

NARUTO !
!

?!


THERE'S EVIDENCE SASUKE WAS HERE UNTIL JUST BEFORE WE ARRIVED!

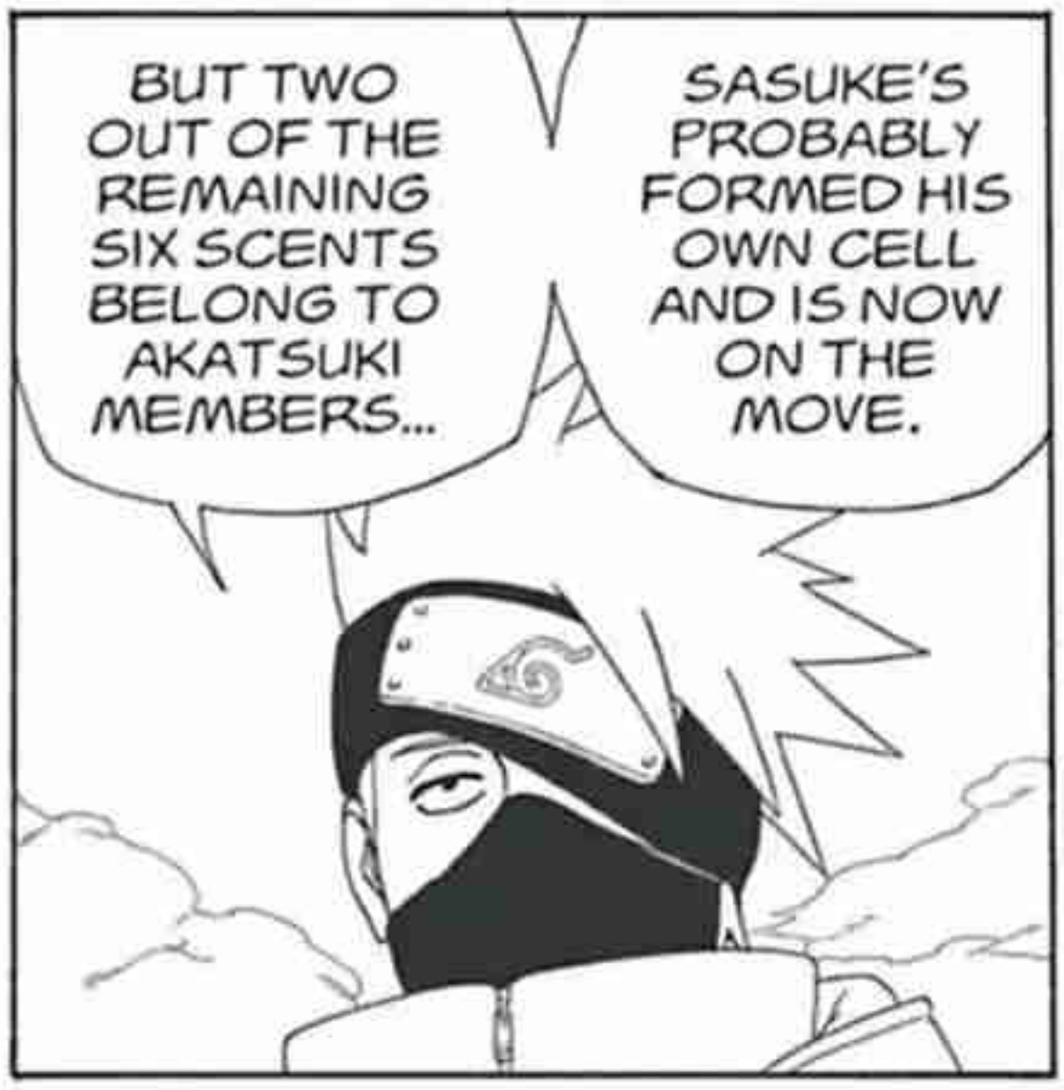
BY THE LOOK OF THIS CRATER, A BATTLE WAS FOUGHT HERE...

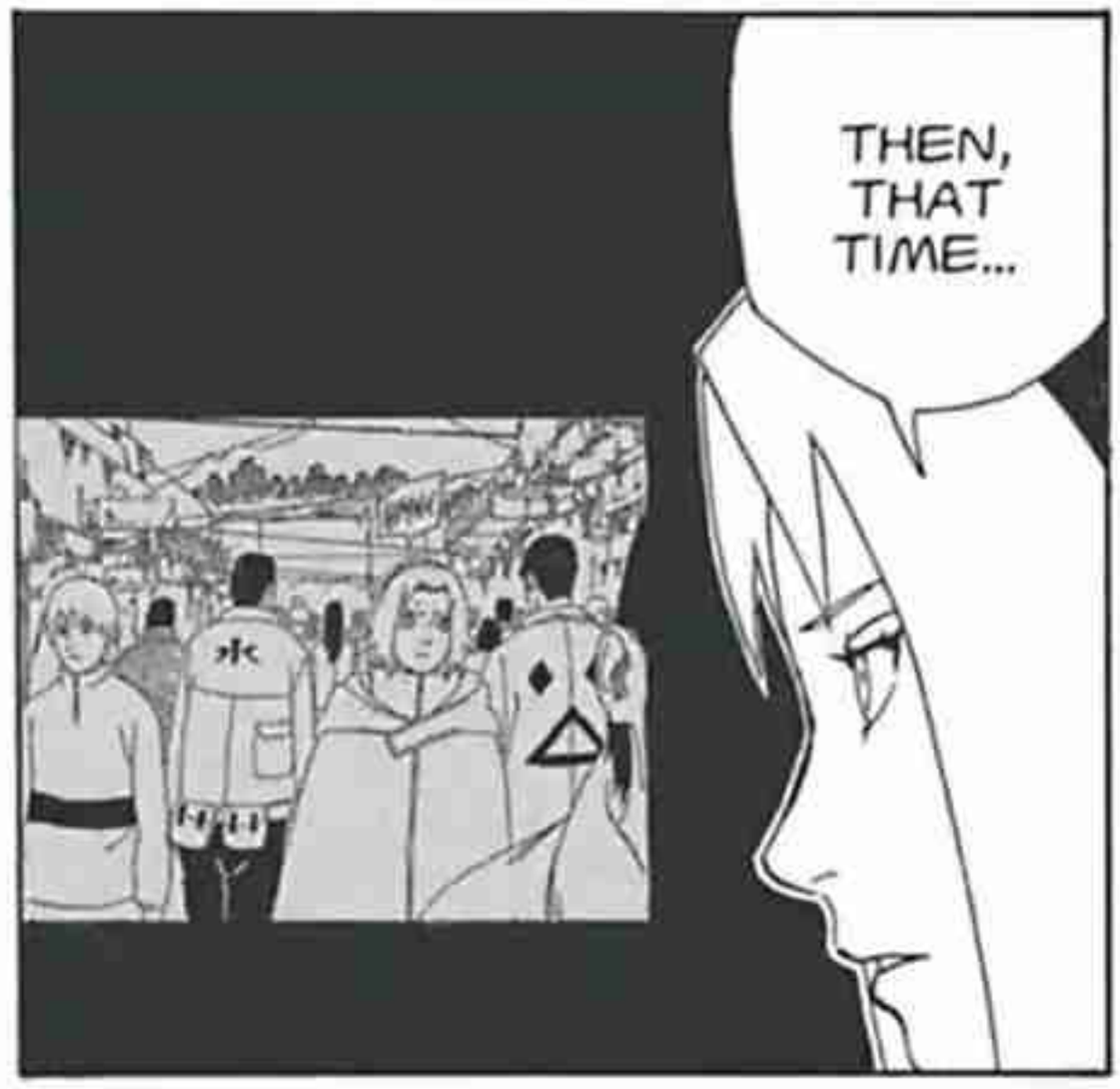
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
PLUS A BUNCH OF OTHERS ...
THERE'S A TRACE OF HIS SCENT.

HE'S GOT A COM-PANION...
SASUKE IS NOT TRAVELING ALONE.

HUH?

JUST AS I SUS-PECTED...!
ONE OF THE OTHER SCENTS IS IDENTICAL TO THE ONE I DE-TECTED IN THE CITY.
SNIFF SNIFF


BUT TWO OUT OF THE REMAINING SIX SCENTS BELONG TO AKATSUKI MEMBERS...
SASUKE'S PROBABLY FORMED HIS OWN CELL AND IS NOW ON THE MOVE.


THEN, THAT TIME...

IMPOS-SIBLE.

OK... SO, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S FOLLOW SASUKE'S SCENT!

HOW COME?!
HUH?!

...OR HE ESCAPED USING TELEPORTATION NINJUTSU.
IN THIS CASE, EITHER SASUKE WAS TOTALLY BLASTED TO BITS BY THE EXPLOSION...

WHAT?! HOW?!
HIS TRAIL GOES COLD HERE.

AND I'VE FOUND HIM...
MY NOSE IS SHARPER THAN A DOG'S.

?!
I BELIEVE IT'S THE LATTER.

THEN WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?! LEAD ON, KIBA!

TRULY IMPRESSIVE, KIBA. YOU'RE LIVING UP TO THE INUZUKA NAME.
A NOSE SHARPER THAN A NINJA HOUND'S...?

UZUMAKI NARUTO... HE IS NO LONGER JUST SOME TROUBLESOME BRAT...

SPARE US YOUR WORDS OF WARNING AND FEAR. THEY ARE WASTED ON US.

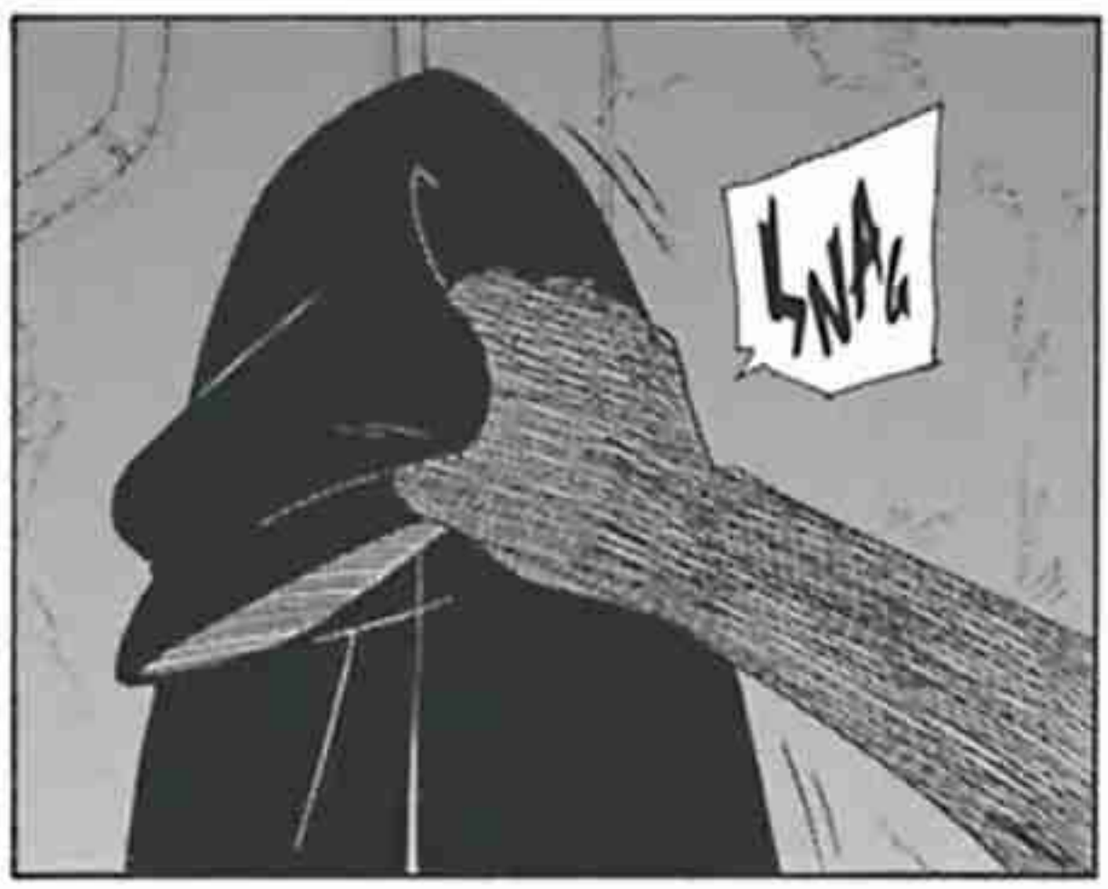
HE'S ACQUIRED SOME FORMIDABLE JUTSU AND SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH MANY POWERFUL ALLIES.
HE EVEN DESTROYED TWO OF KAKUZU'S LIVES WITH A SINGLE BLOW.
CAPTURING HIM WILL NOT BE EASY...

TRUE ENOUGH...
HO HO...

PAIN HAS NEVER YET LOST A BATTLE.

YOU KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE...

PUSH THE OTHERS TO HASTEN THE CAPTURES OF THE REMAINING JINCHŪRIKI.



SHUP

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, EVERYTHING SHALL BE RESTORED TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE...

SPLAT
SPLIP

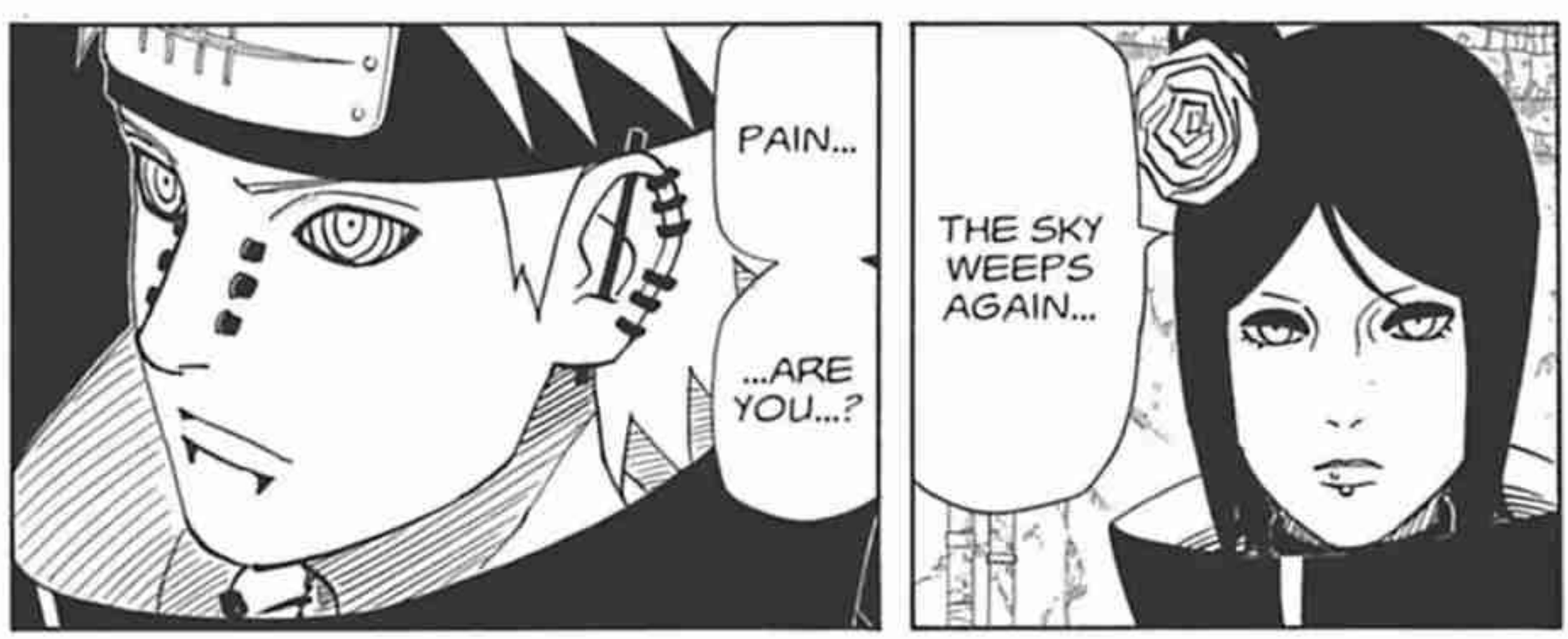
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
VOOSH

KRAK

FLZZA
SH

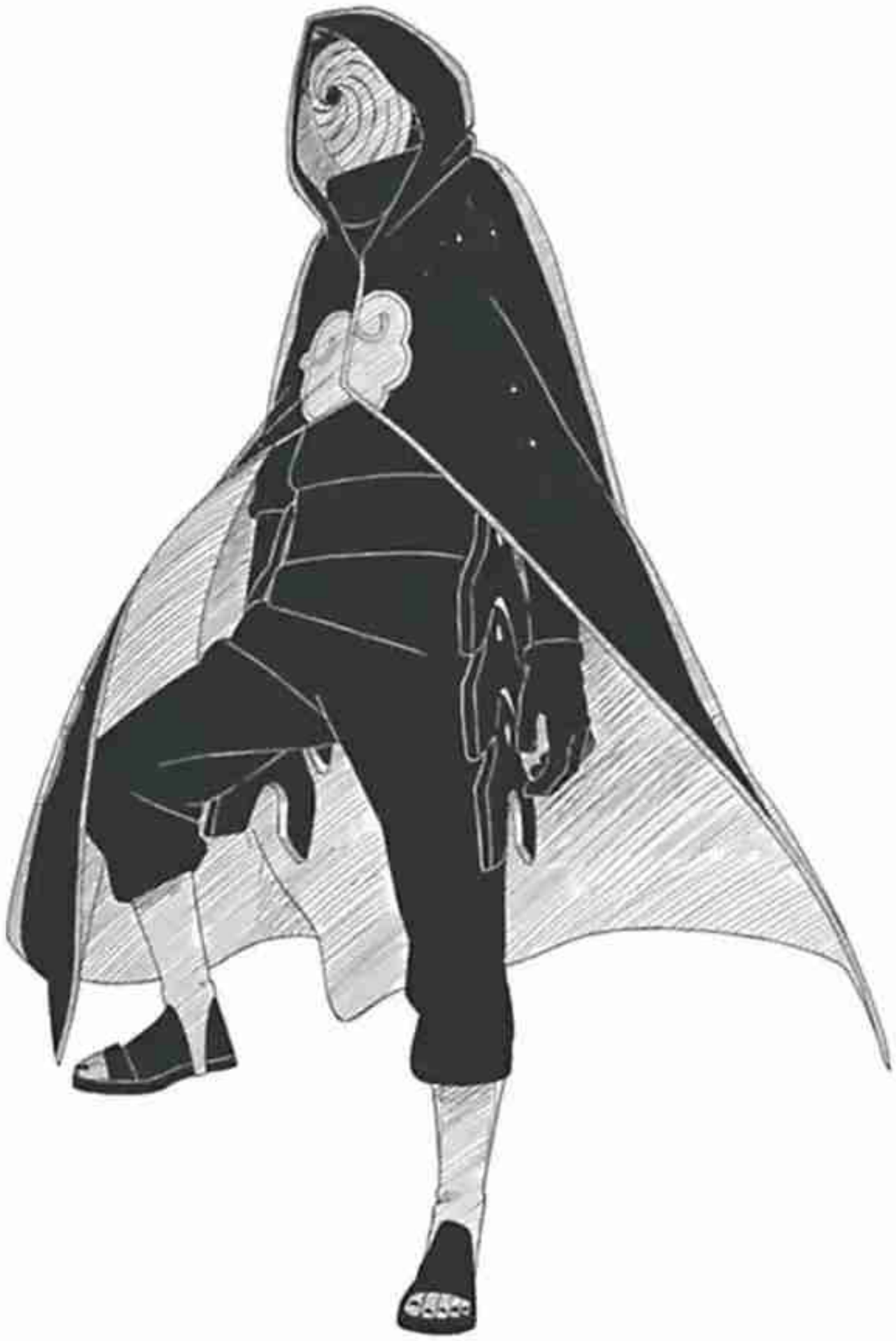
...MY POWER... UCHIHA MADARA...
...INCLUDING THE TRUE POWER OF THE SHARINGAN...

RUMBLE-RUMBLE
PLIP
FFFT


PAIN...
...ARE YOU...?
THE SKY WEEPS AGAIN...

NARUTO

Number 365: Pursue Itachi!

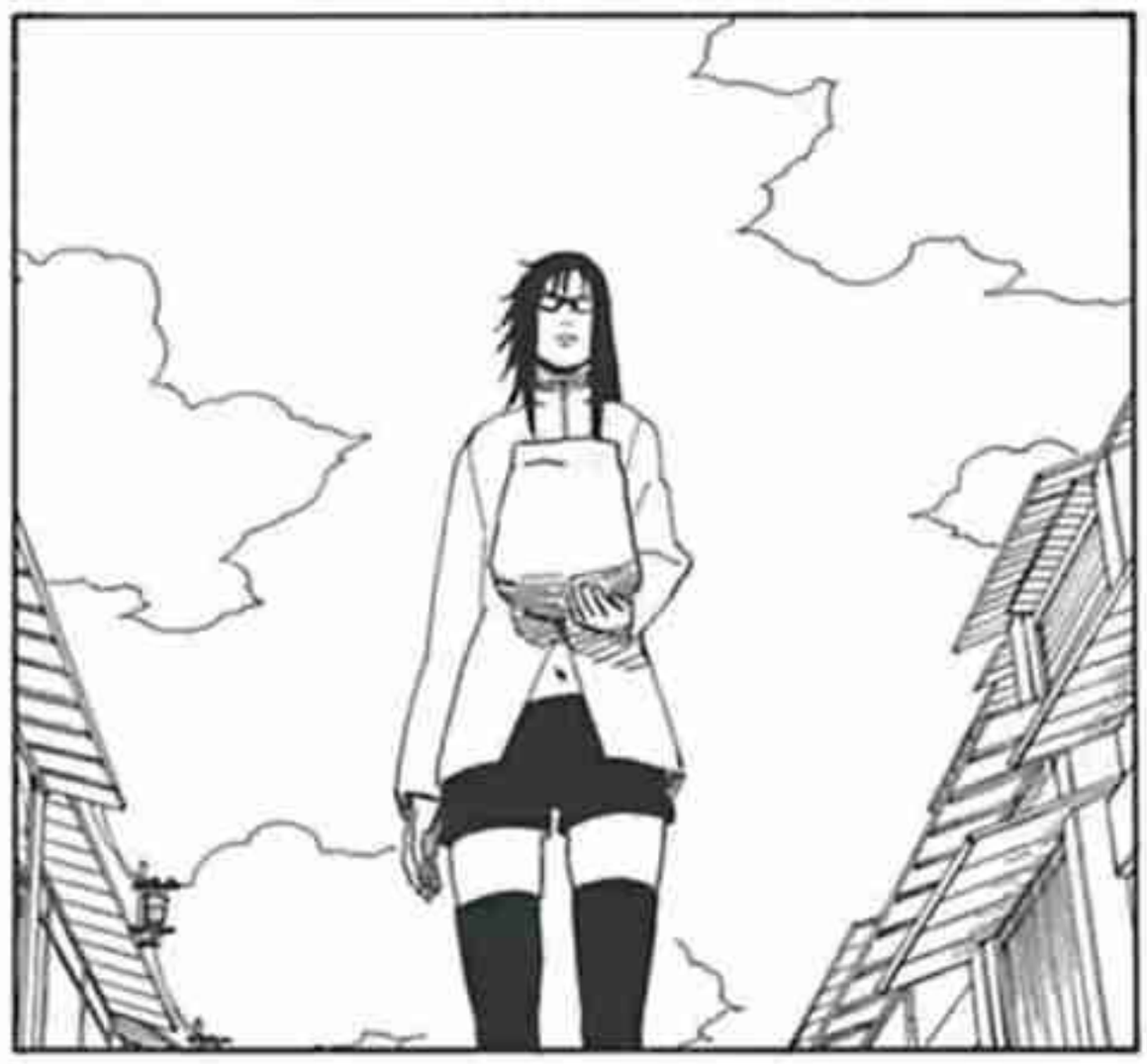


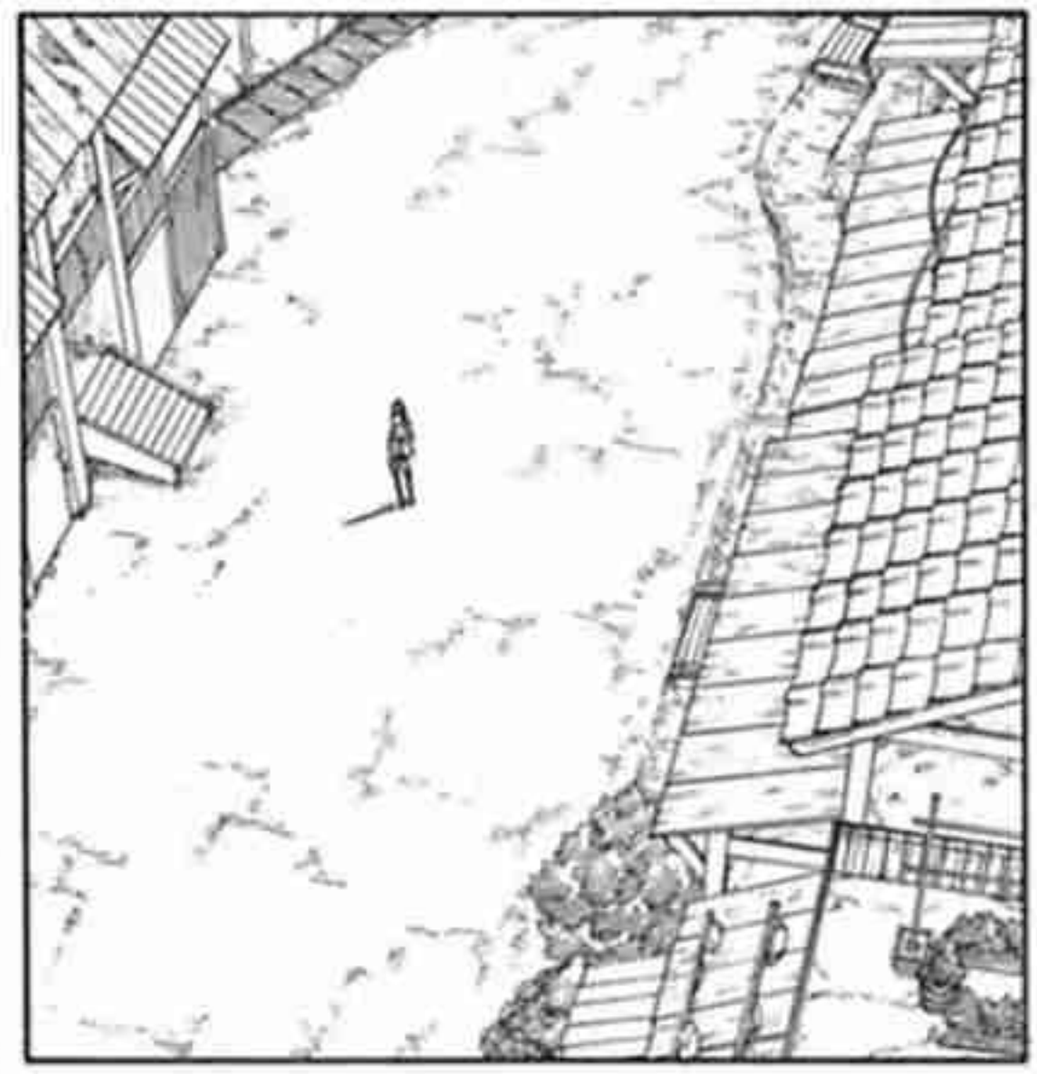
I WISH IT WOULD GET DARK SOON...
THAT GIRL'S LATE...
HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PICK UP SUPPLIES...?
PSHH
HEE HEE HEE... I'M EXCITED ALREADY~ ♡
ONCE JUGO AND SUIGETSU ARE ASLEEP, I'LL FINALLY HAVE SASUKE ALL TO MYSELF!
WHISK

SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM

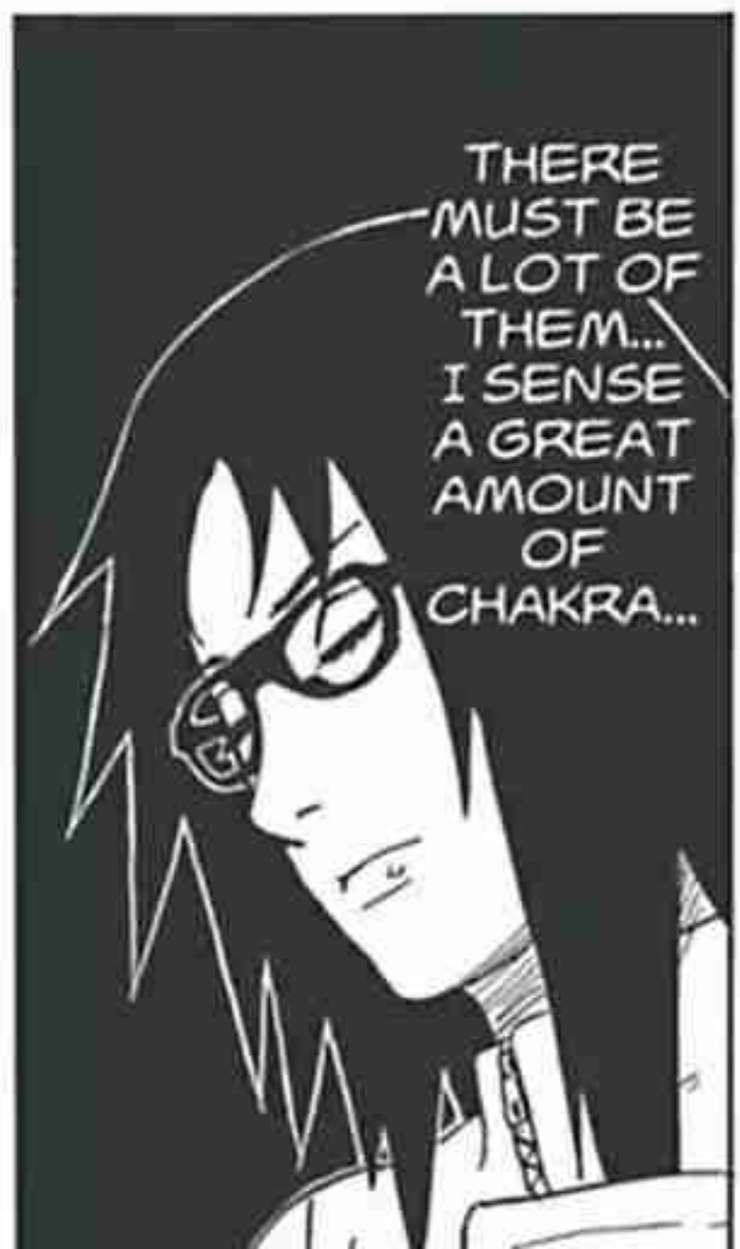
WELL, KIBA?!

SO SHUT UP AND STOP DISTRACTING ME, NARUTO!
SASUKE'S SCENT IS FAINT AND FADING! I NEED TO CONCENTRATE!



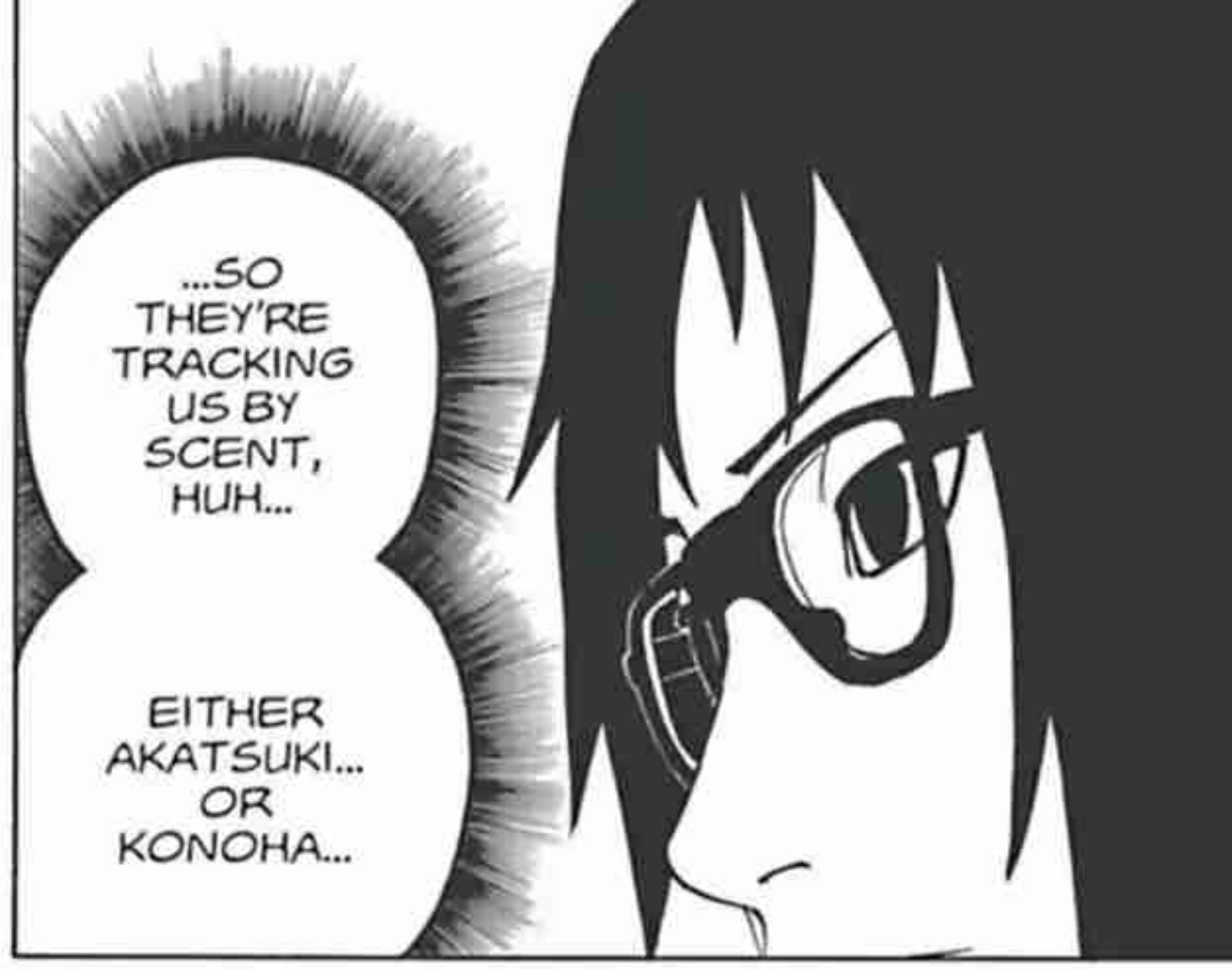


...DOGS, I THINK...
...NOT ALL OF IT HUMAN EITHER...


THERE MUST BE A LOT OF THEM... I SENSE A GREAT AMOUNT OF CHAKRA...

YUP... THEY'RE COMING... AND FAST...

民宿
お越


...SO THEY'RE TRACKING US BY SCENT, HUH...
EITHER AKATSUKI... OR KONOHA...

SHF

DO ME A FAVOR AND TRY TO CON-TROL YOUR-SELF.
YEAH, NO PROB-LEM.
SWISH...
JUGO! I'M GONNA GO CHECK ON KARIN.

?!

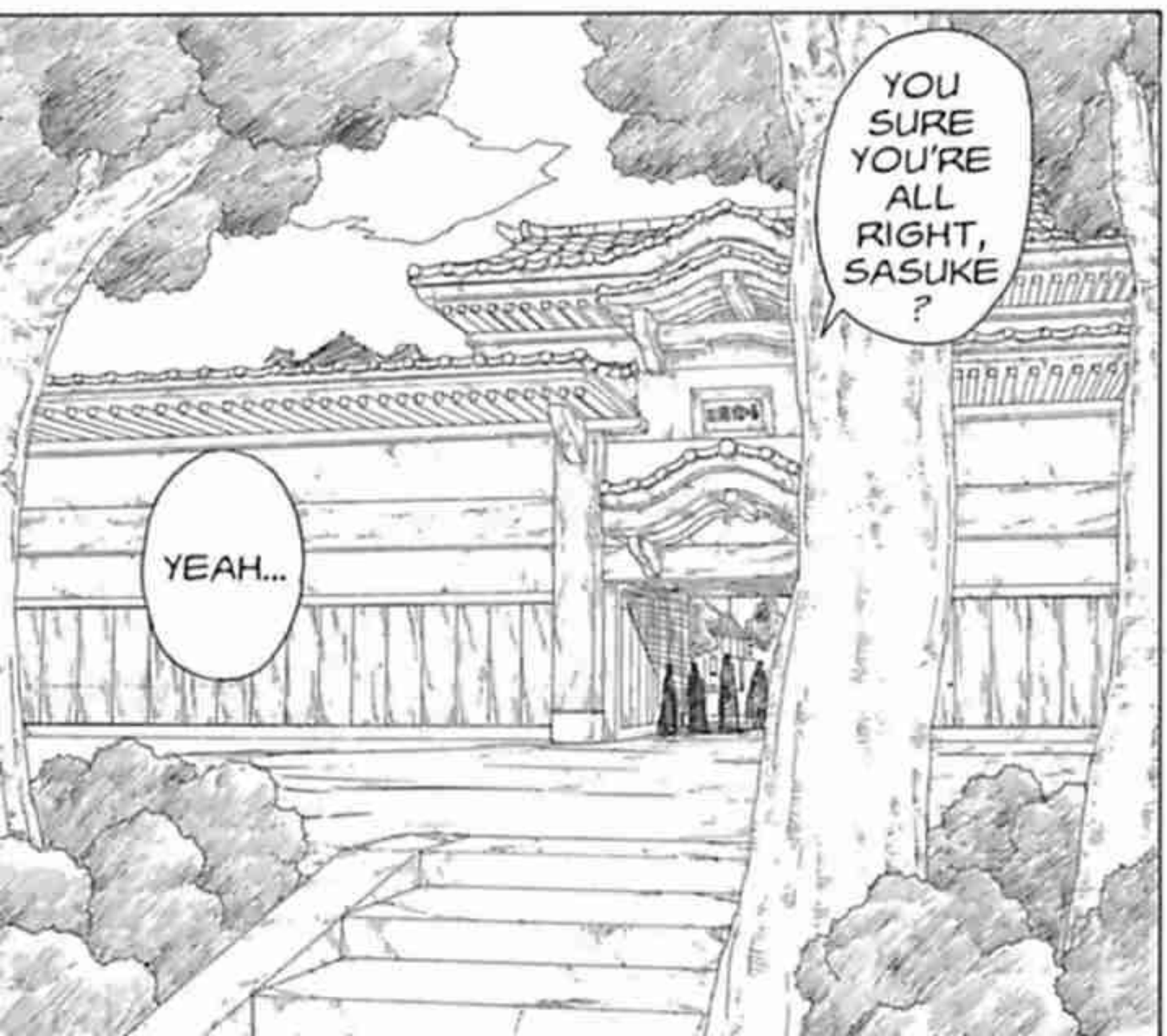
WHAT?!

WAKE UP, SASUKE !!
BL
ARGH!!

...

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE COM-PANY...
...SO WHAT NOW?

JUGO ...
...MARK THE MAP WITH THE LOCATION OF EVERY AKATSUKI HIDEOUT YOU LEARNED ABOUT.
EVERYONE GET READY. WE'RE LEAVING.


YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, SASUKE ?
YEAH...

日光宿

FLAP
I'VE BEEN HEALING A LOT FASTER SINCE I ABSORBED OROCHIMARU'S POWER.
SHUP...

WHETHER IT'S AKATSUKI OR KONOHA...
...THEY MAY HAVE INTEL ON ITACHI. MIGHT BE WISE TO LIE LOW AND THEN AMBUSH THEM. WHAT DO YOU THINK, SASUKE?

SHUP
SO THIS IS THE POWER OF THE WHITE SNAKE, HUH...

AMBUSHING THEM IS A WASTE OF TIME.

THE AKATSUKI ONLY OPERATE IN TWO-MAN CELLS.
IF THEY'RE COMING IN FORCE...
...THEN IT'S MOST LIKELY KONOHA.

ONCE WE LOCATE HIM, WORST COMES TO WORST, YOU THREE TAKE CARE OF KONOHA.
ITACHI IS OUR ONLY PRIORITY.
THAP

SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?

LEAVE KONOHA BE.
RIGHT.

FINE...

BUT FIRST, TEAM HEBI, WE USE JUGO'S INTEL...

...AND HIT THOSE AKATSUKI HIDEOUTS ONE BY ONE.

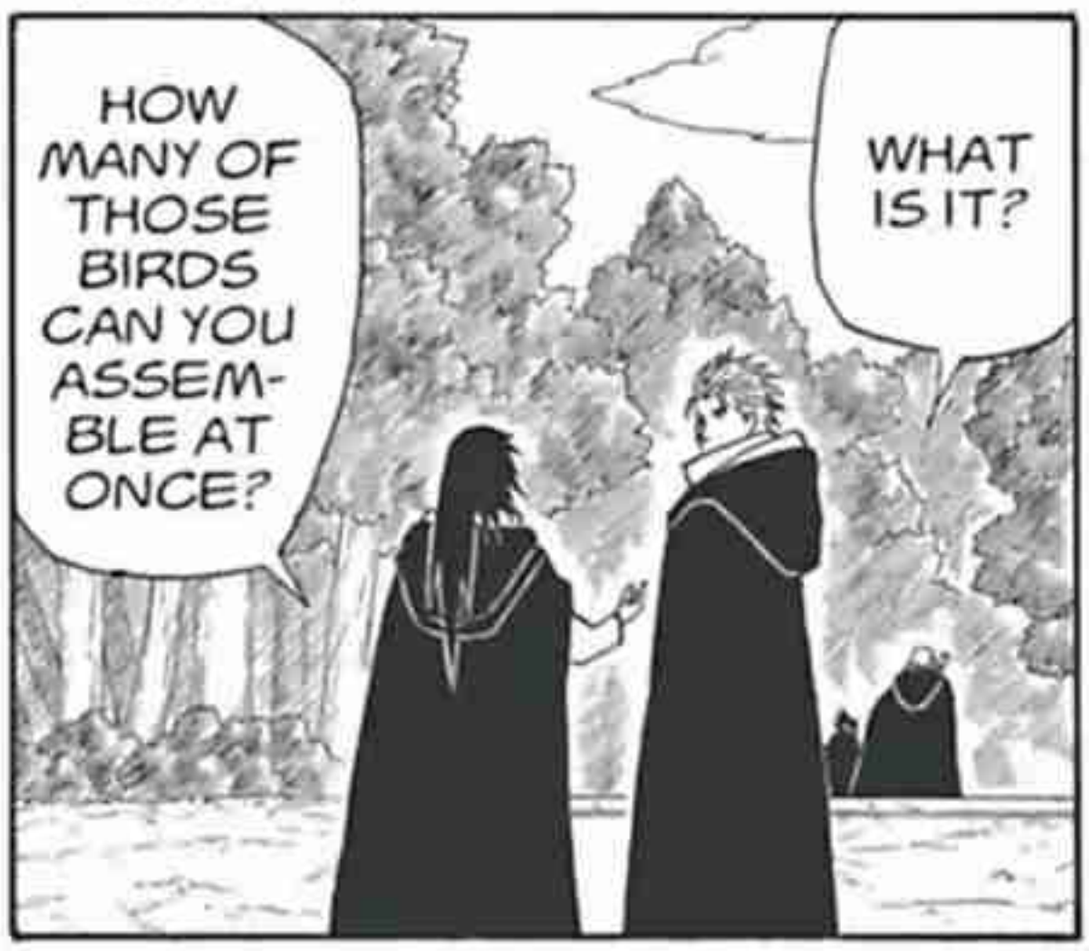
SWISH

FLAP

LET'S GO.

?!

TAP


HOW MANY OF THOSE BIRDS CAN YOU ASSEM-BLE AT ONCE?
WHAT IS IT?

?
DO ME A FAVOR.

HUP
WELL, I'VE GOT THESE CLOTHES THAT SASUKE WORE...
...ALL DRENCHED IN HIS SWEAT... AND I WAS THINKING I COULD–

WHY...?

?

DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHERED COMING TO YOU OF ALL PEOPLE! JERK!!
Y'KNOW WHAT?? FORGET IT! FORGET I EVEN ASKED!
TAP

WAIT... WHY DO YOU HAVE SASUKE'S SWEATY OLD CLOTHES ??

SENSORY-TYPE SHINOBI HAVE DIFFERENT SPECIALTIES DEPENDING ON THEIR VILLAGE OF ORIGIN.

KONOHA TENDS TO USE NINJA HOUNDS FOR TRACKING.

SHRRIP

SHRRIP SHRRIP

A-ANY-WAY...

READ THIS WAY
SASUKE'S ON THE MOVE!!
SHOOT!
WHAT'S UP, KIBA?!
!
?!
WAIT!
THAT'S WEIRD...
HE'S PROB-ABLY GOING AFTER ITACHI !!
THEN WE BETTER HURRY!
TMP
IT'S ALL OVER THE PLACE NOW! GOING IN ALL DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AT ONCE?!
SASUKE'S SCENT IS SCAT-TERING!

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY...

...BUT I'D GUESS THEY HAVE A PRETTY ADEPT SENSORY-TYPE SHINOBI WITH THEM.

THEY MUST HAVE SENSED OUR APPROACH AND ARE NOW TRYING TO FOOL US INTO SPLITTING UP.

SENSED US? HOW?!

...

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TRACK HIM...

...BUT I DON'T KNOW WHICH SCENT TO FOLLOW!

OUR COMMS AREN'T LONG RANGE! IF WE SPLIT UP, THEY'LL BE USELESS!

FOLLOW ALL THE SCENTS!!

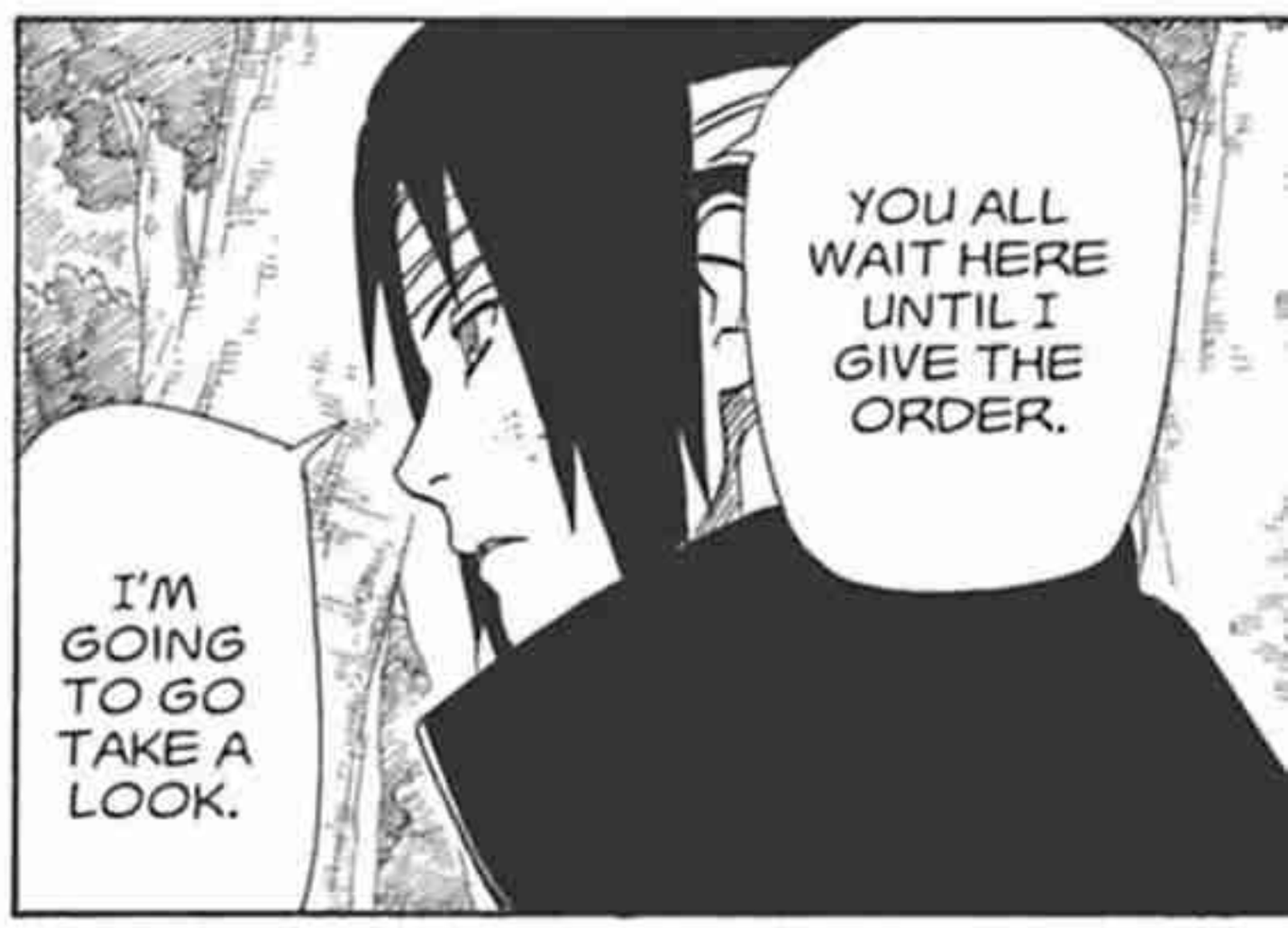
FWIP

THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO!

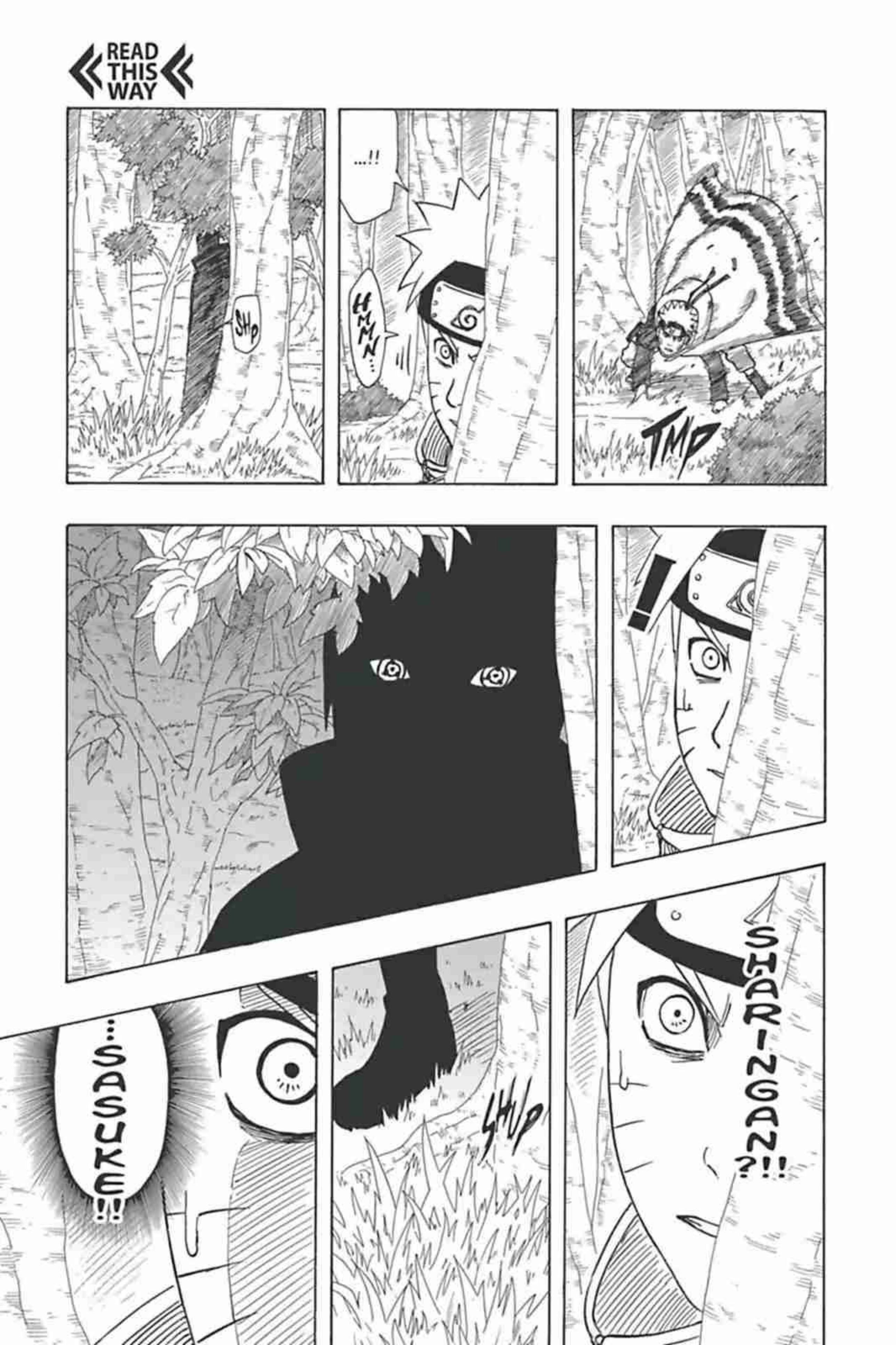
READ THIS WAY
BOOF-
BOOF-
BOOF
ART OF THE MULTIPLE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS !!
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM

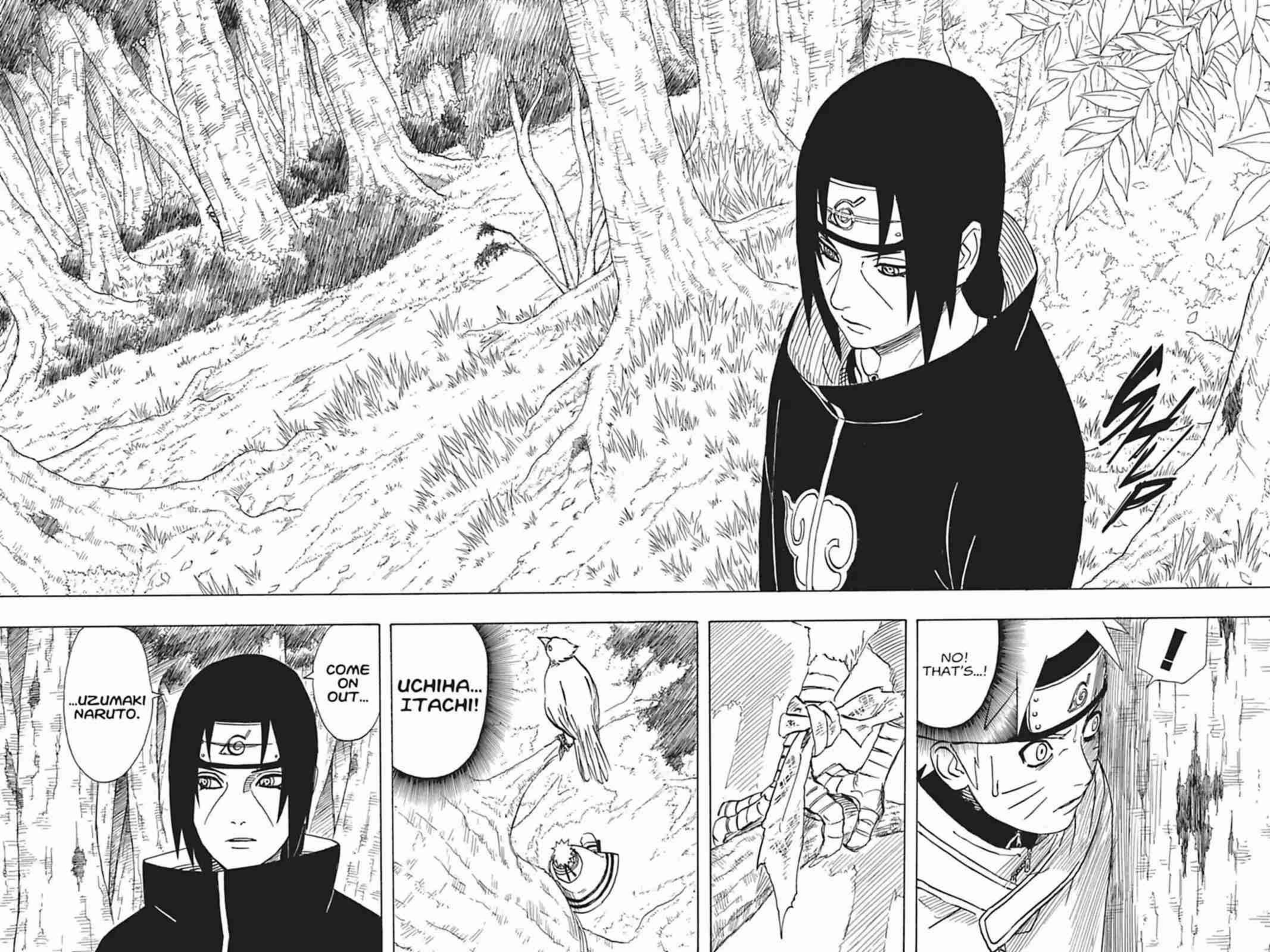
JUST BEYOND HERE, HUH.

SHOOM


YOU ALL WAIT HERE UNTIL I GIVE THE ORDER.
I'M GOING TO GO TAKE A LOOK.

!!
RUSTLE


READ THIS WAY
TMP
...!!
HMMM...
SHP
SHARINGAN?!!
SHP
...SASUKE!!


SLIP
COME ON OUT...
...UZUMAKI NARUTO.
UCHIHA... ITACHI!
NO! THAT'S...!
!

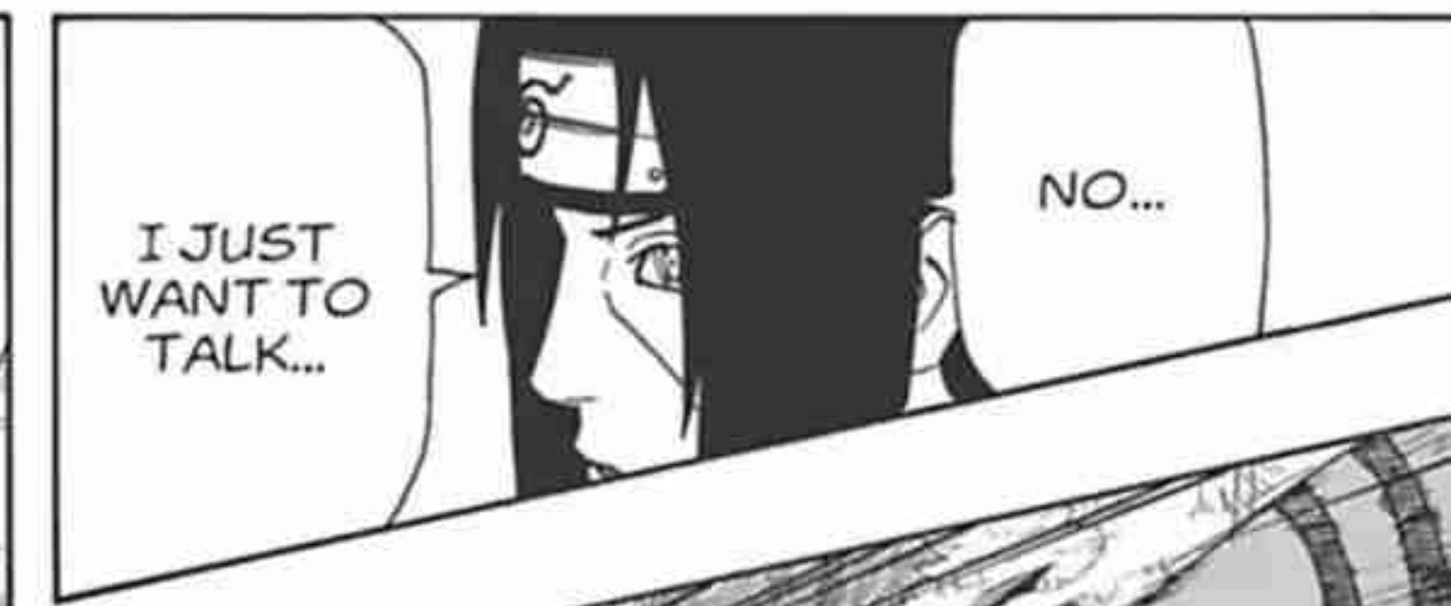
NARUTO

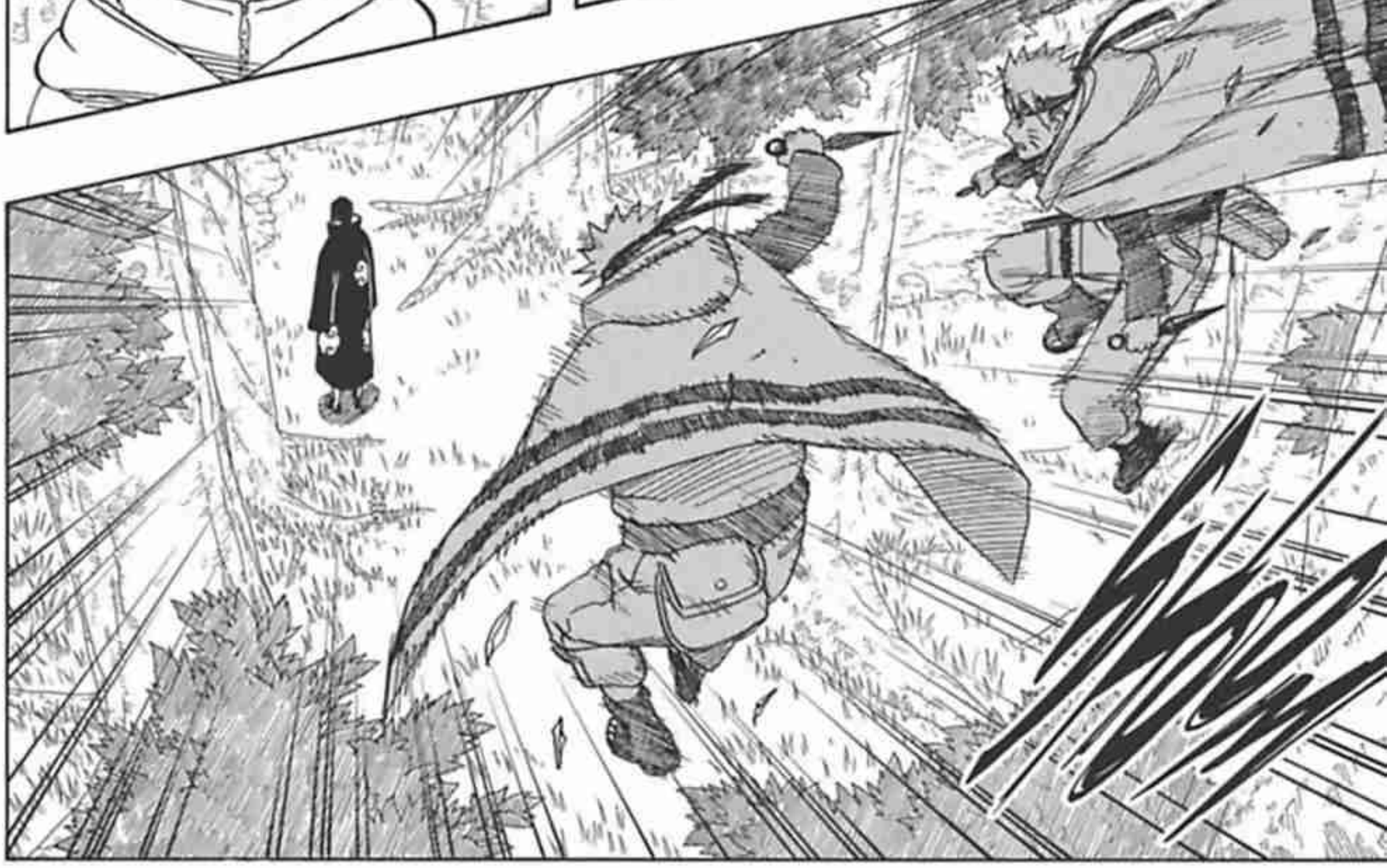
Number 366: Brothers

LEMME GUESS... YOU'RE HERE TO CAPTURE ME?

SHP...

...


I JUST WANT TO TALK...
NO...



ARGH!

SHUNK

SHU NK

WAH!!

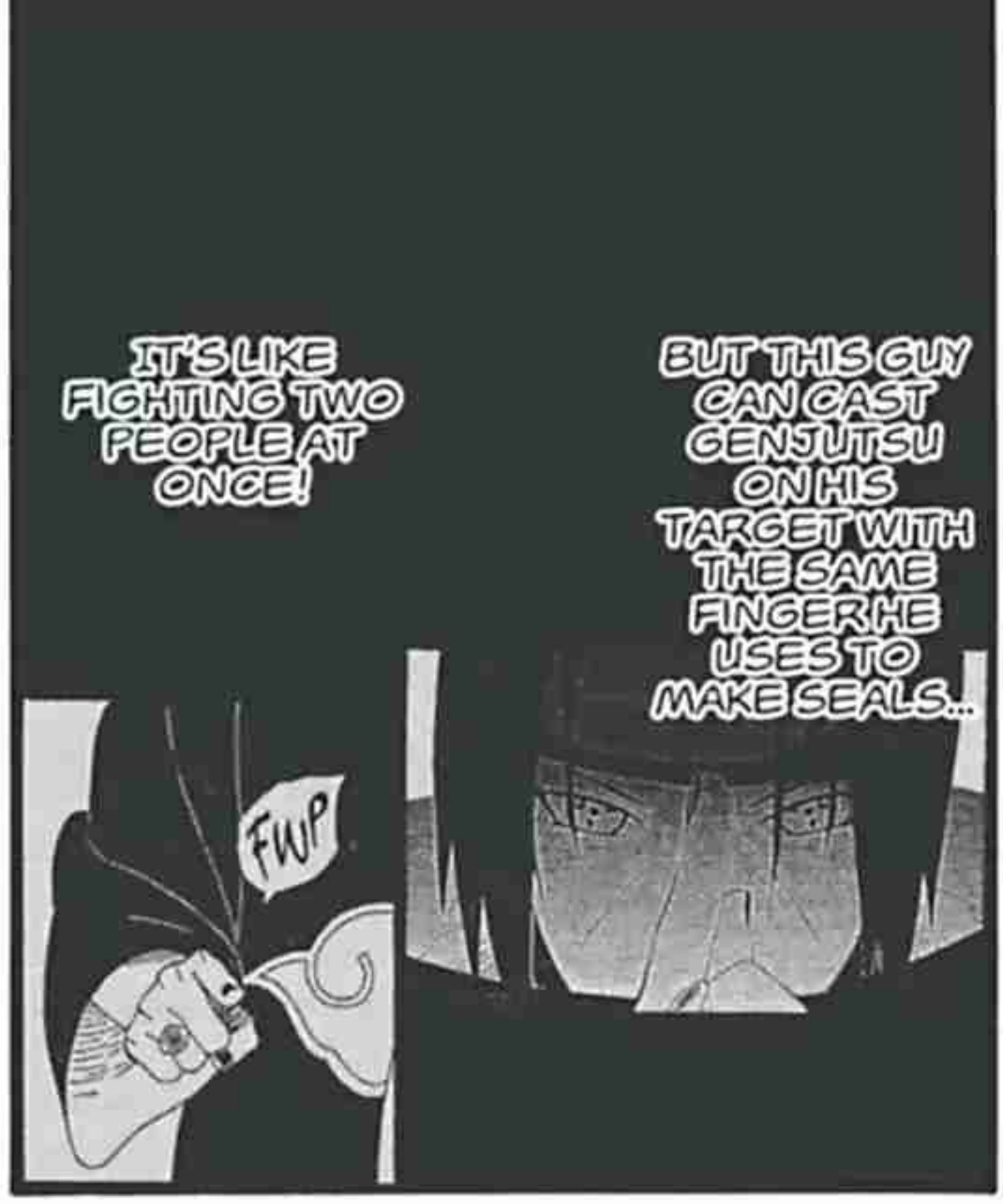
ZWISH

SWISH

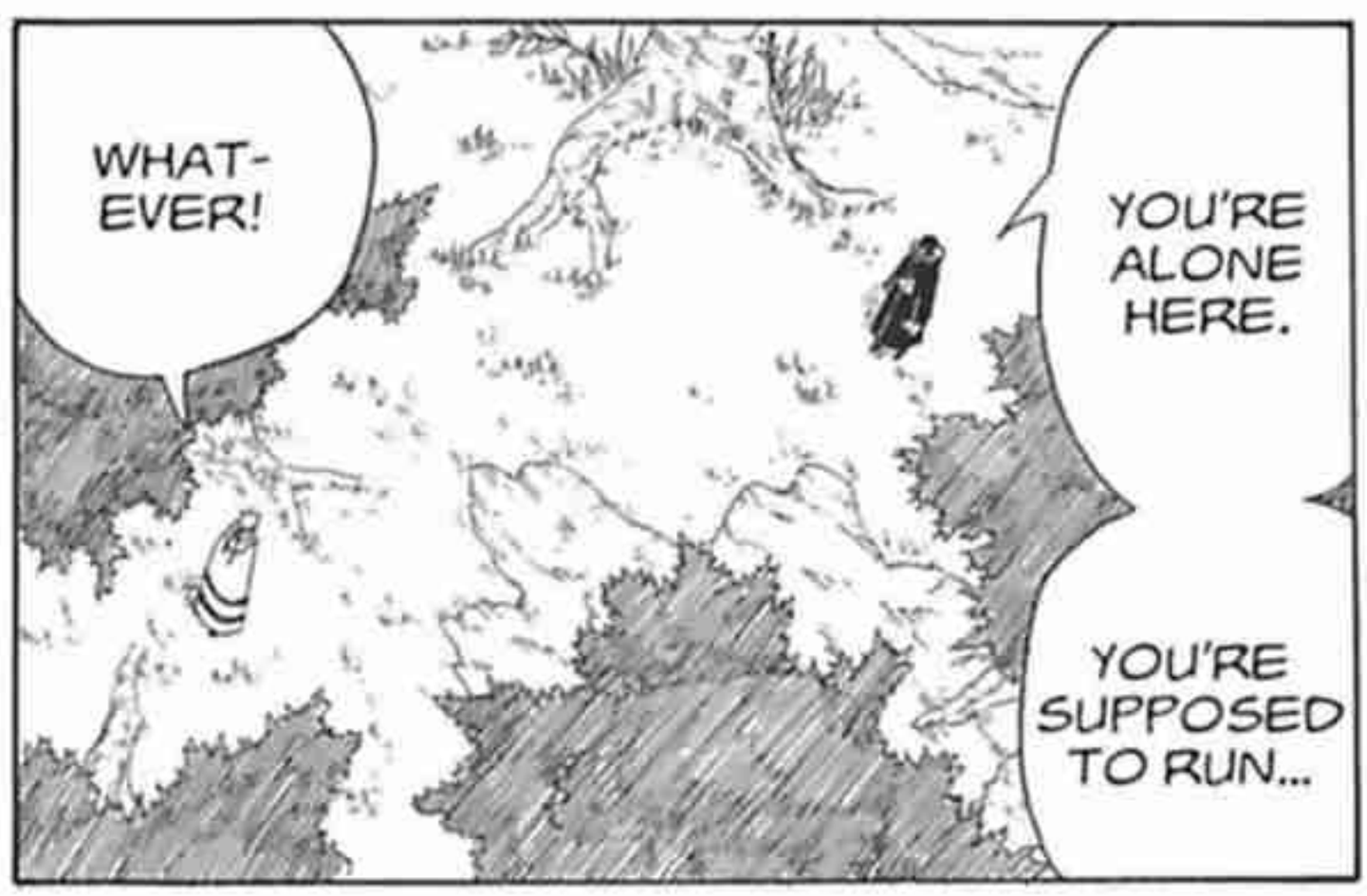
BOOF

BOOF

YEAH, RIGHT! LIKE I'D EVER TRUST YOU!


IT'S LIKE FIGHTING TWO PEOPLE AT ONCE!
BUT THIS GUY CAN CAST GENJUTSU ON HIS TARGET WITH THE SAME FINGER HE USES TO MAKE SEALS...
FWP

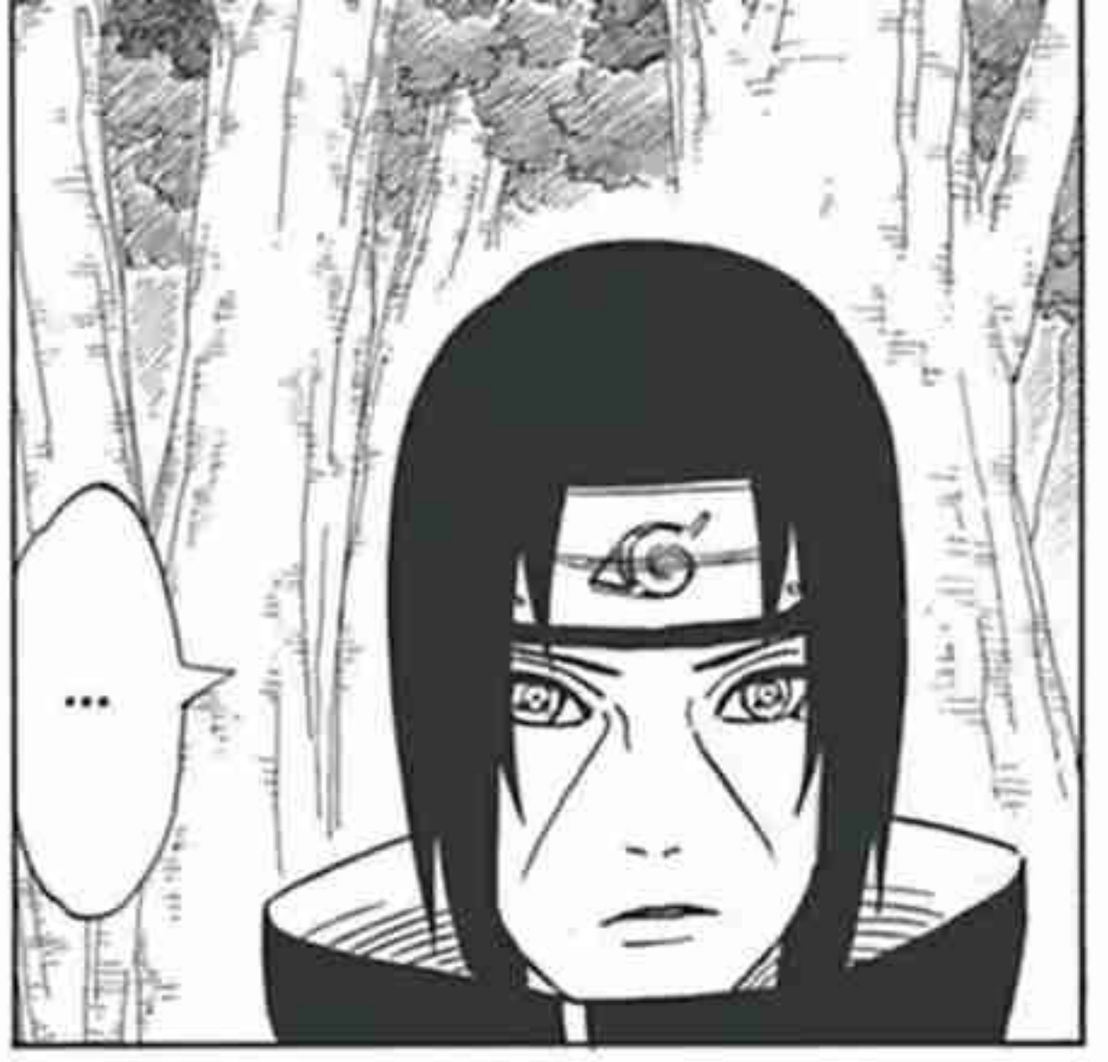
IF TWO ON ONE, GO FOR HIS BACK...!
WHEN YOU FACE THE SHARINGAN, IF ONE ON ONE, YOU DEFINITELY RUN...


WHAT-EVER!
YOU'RE ALONE HERE.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO RUN...

DIDN'T GRANNY CHIYO TEACH YOU ANYTHING ABOUT FIGHTING THE SHARIN-GAN?

IF I CATCH YOU, I'LL GET TO SEE SASUKE AGAIN!!
BESIDES, WHY WOULD I WANT TO RUN?!

I CAN BE ANY NUMBER FROM ONE TO ONE THOUSAND!


...

YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH MY BROTHER... WHY?
HE'S GONE ROGUE. ABANDONED HIS VILLAGE. HIS FRIENDS ...
...

...BUT HE'S MORE OF A BROTHER TO ME THAN YOU ARE TO HIM!!!
WE MAY NOT BE BLOOD...

RRROAR !!

...

FLAP FLAP
FLICK

!
?!
SCREECH

YOU ARE ALREADY WITHIN MY GENJUTSU.

ZWOOO...

FLAP FLAP

UNH!

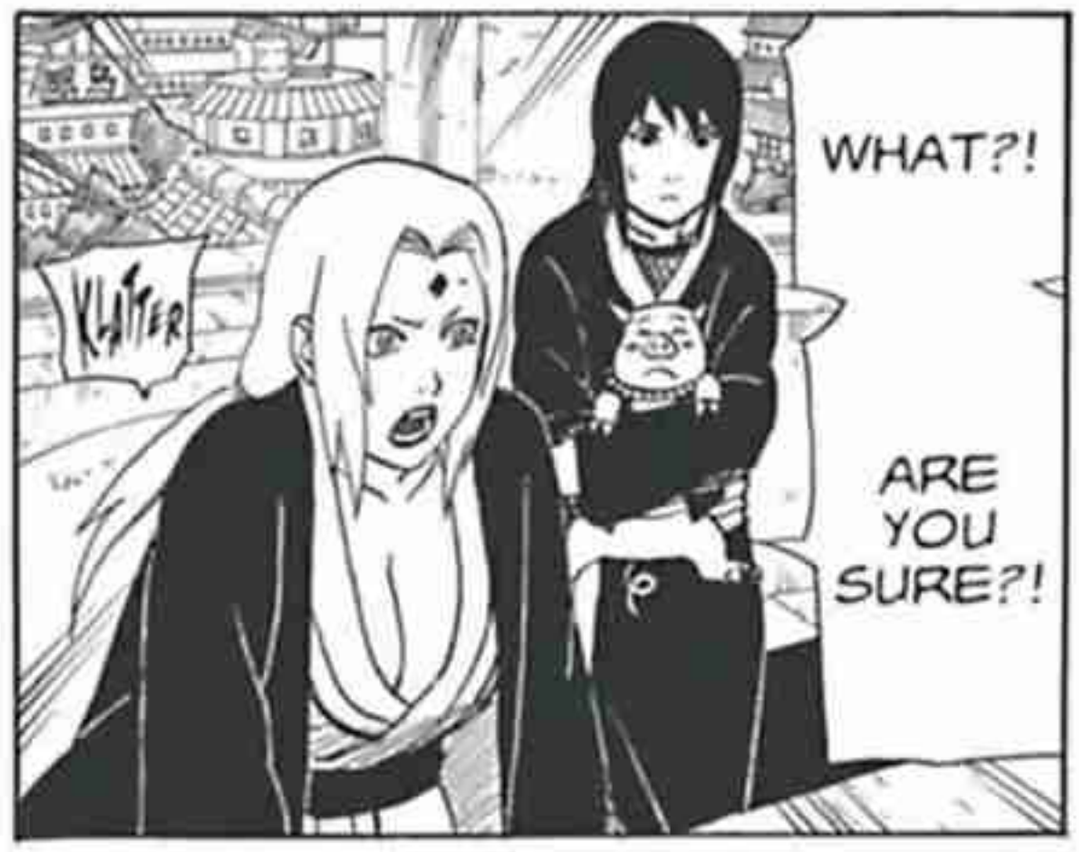
?!

...I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.

I JUST WANT TO TALK.

WHAT NEWS, JIRAIYA...?
KLAK

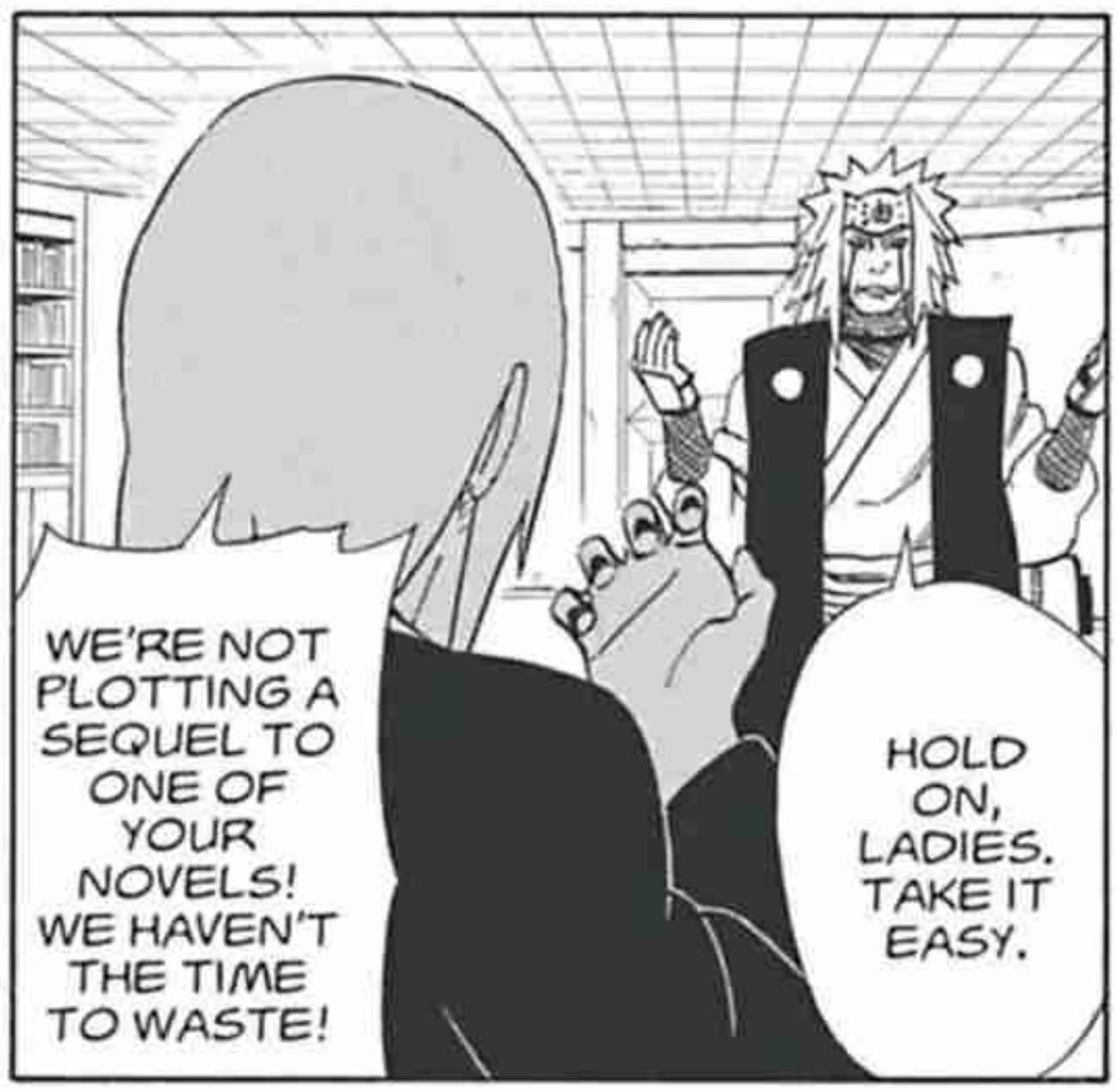
THUMP
THUMP
I'M LETTING MYSELF IN, TSUNADE.


KLATTER
WHAT?!
ARE YOU SURE?!

I'VE PIN-POINTED THE AKATSUKI LEADER'S LOCA-TION!
油

LADY TSUNADE! WE MUST USE THIS INFORMATION FOR A SURPRISE ATTACK!
TELL ME!

ESPECIALLY WITH THE STAKES AS HIGH AS THEY ARE...
BUT IT'S DANGER-OUS TO RUSH PELL-MELL INTO THINGS.
WHAT ...?!


WE'RE NOT PLOTTING A SEQUEL TO ONE OF YOUR NOVELS! WE HAVEN'T THE TIME TO WASTE!
HOLD ON, LADIES. TAKE IT EASY.

I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING THERE.
LET'S GRAB A DRINK, YOU AND ME, JUST THE TWO OF US. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.

KLUNK

(BAR SAKÉ)
酒屋

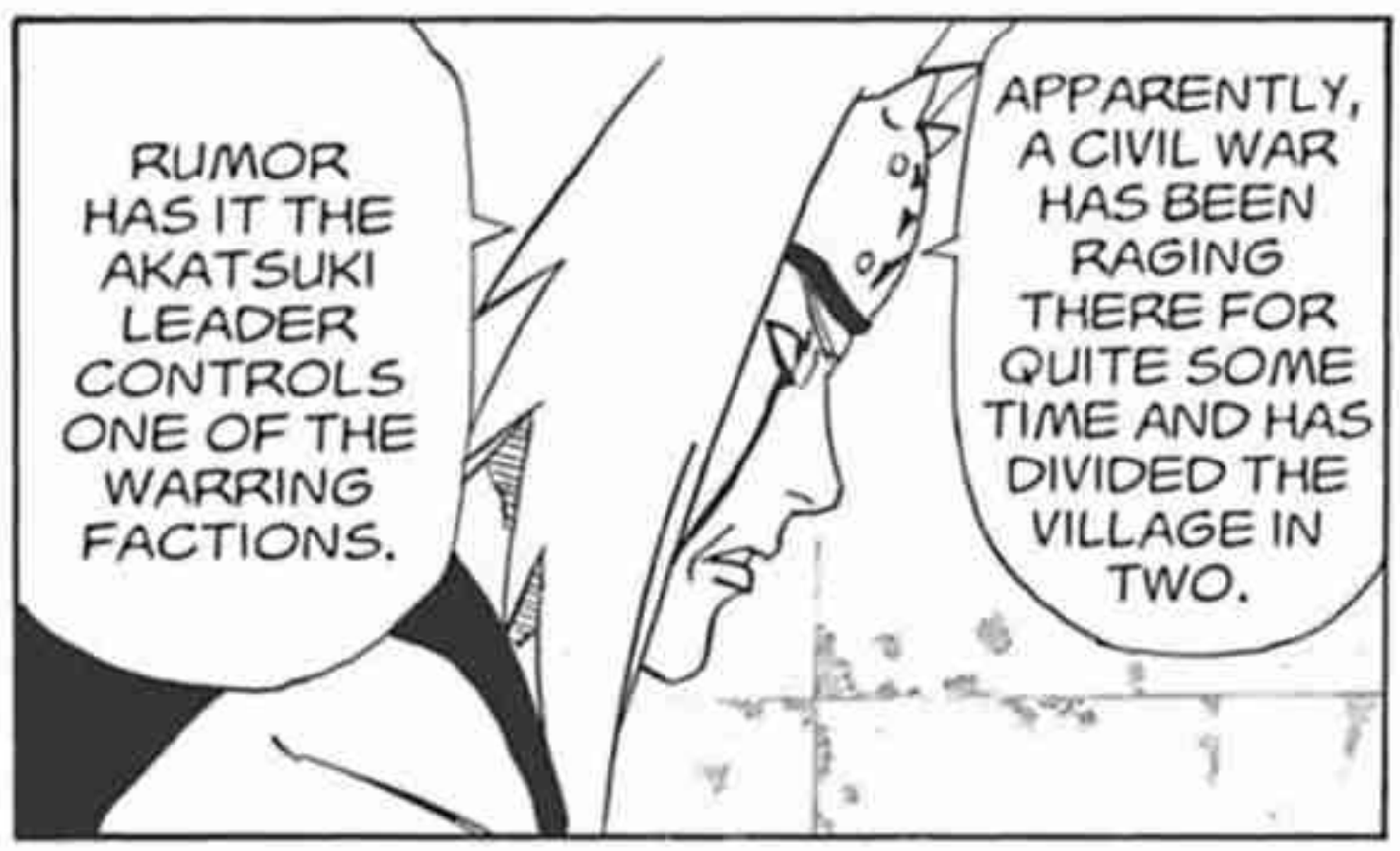
IRK
FOOL! I AM THE HOKAGE!
I CAN'T JUST GO OUT DRINKING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY! HAVE YOU NO RESPECT FOR YOUR FELLOW SHINOBI???

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THE AKATSUKI LEADER IS IN THE HIDDEN RAIN VILLAGE?
SO...

UH... YOU REALLY OUGHT TO TAKE YOUR OWN WORDS A BIT MORE TO HEART...
YOU ARE HOKAGE, AFTER ALL.
PHEW-WEE

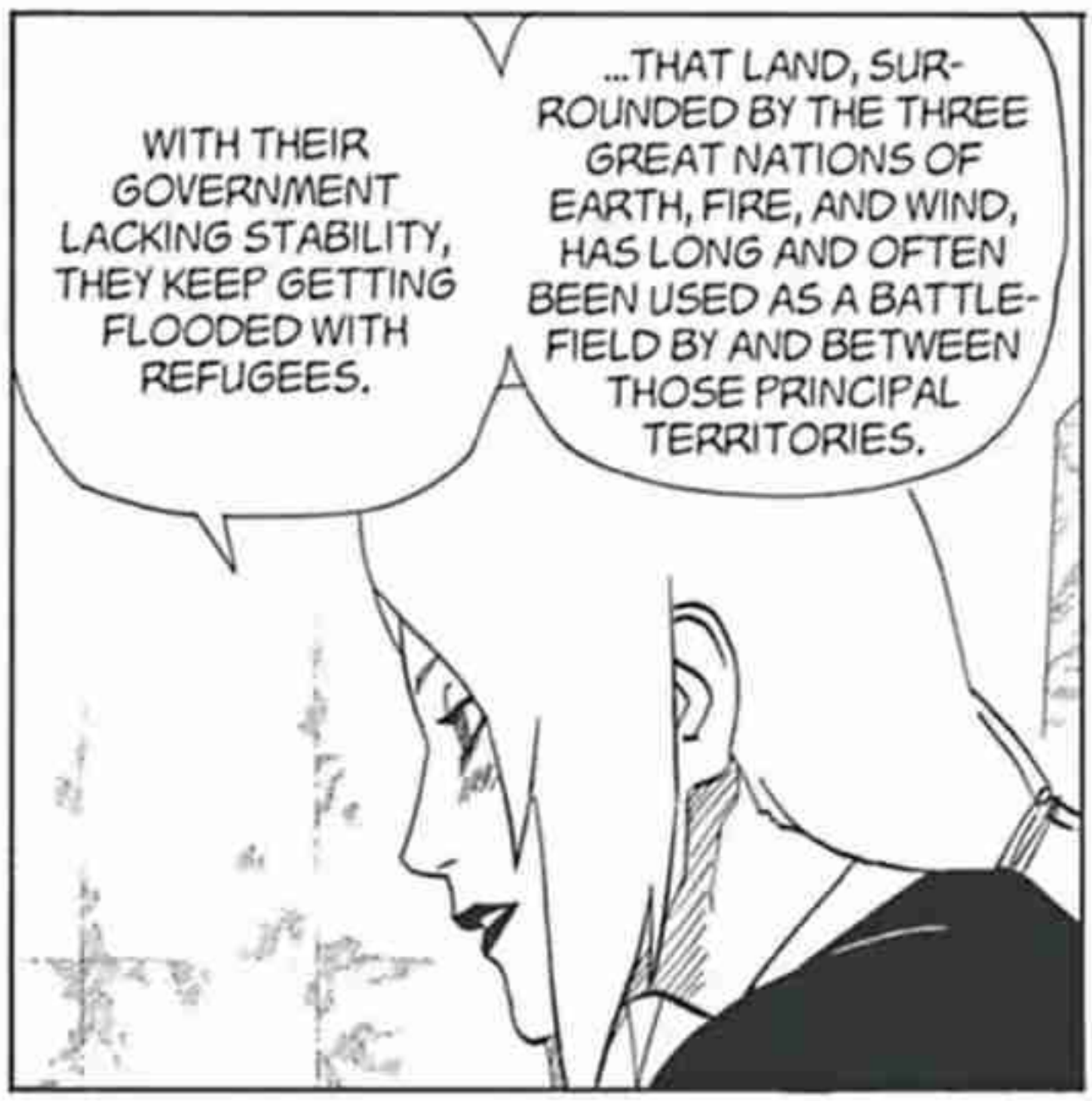
MAINTAINING ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS PREVENTS NEWS FROM GETTING OUT TO OTHER NATIONS AND ALLOWS THEM TO COVER UP THE SHAME OF WHAT'S GOING ON.
...BUT IT'S THAT VERY INSULAR NATURE THAT MAKES IT THE IDEAL HIDEOUT.
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A PLACE THE AKATSUKI COULD MOVE AROUND IN EASILY.

IT'S A CLOSED, INSULAR VILLAGE THAT GIVES US PROBLEMS EVERY YEAR FOR THE JOINT CHÛNIN EXAM PREPARATIONS.
BUT THAT PLACE HAS EXTREMELY STRICT ENTRY AND DEPARTURE INSPECTIONS, NOT TO MENTION VISITATION SUPERVISION...


RUMOR HAS IT THE AKATSUKI LEADER CONTROLS ONE OF THE WARRING FACTIONS.
APPARENTLY, A CIVIL WAR HAS BEEN RAGING THERE FOR QUITE SOME TIME AND HAS DIVIDED THE VILLAGE IN TWO.

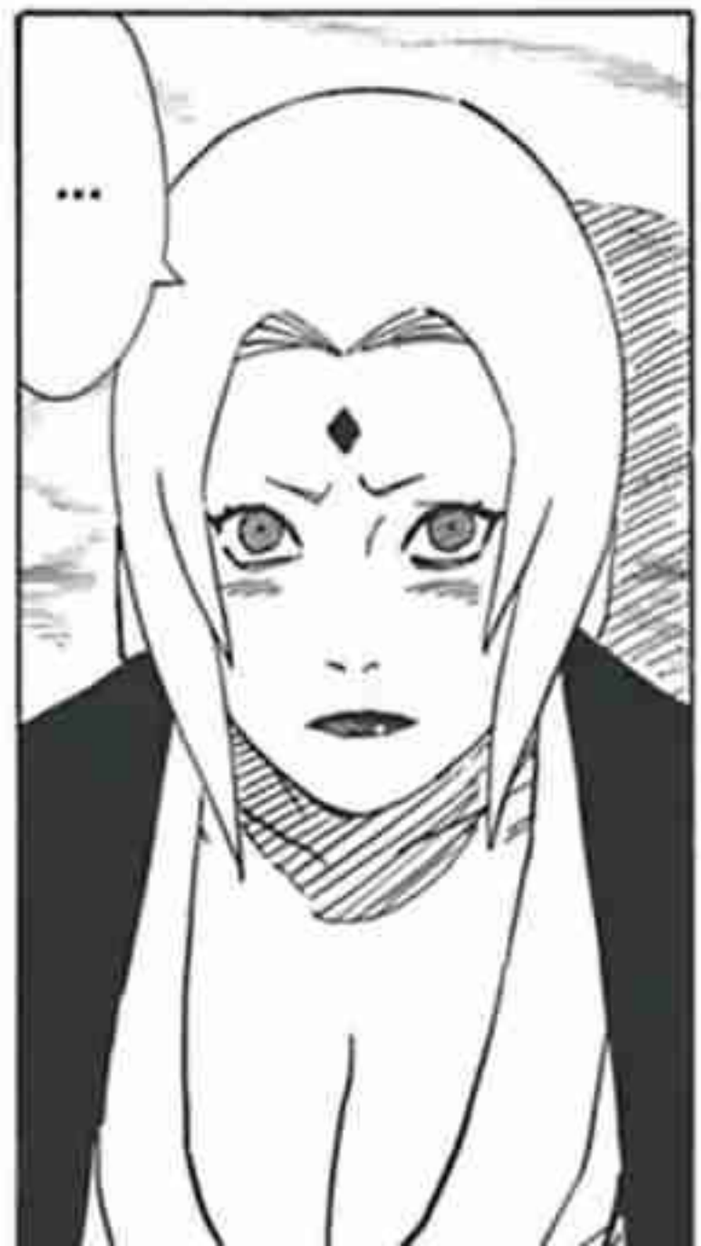
SHAME ...?

...AND CONFIRM WHETHER THAT INTEL IS REAL OR NOT.
THAT'S WHY I'VE GOT TO GO IN ALONE, FIRST...
WE CAN TALK STRATEGY AFTER THAT...


WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT LACKING STABILITY, THEY KEEP GETTING FLOODED WITH REFUGEES.
...THAT LAND, SURROUNDED BY THE THREE GREAT NATIONS OF EARTH, FIRE, AND WIND, HAS LONG AND OFTEN BEEN USED AS A BATTLEFIELD BY AND BETWEEN THOSE PRINCIPAL TERRITORIES.

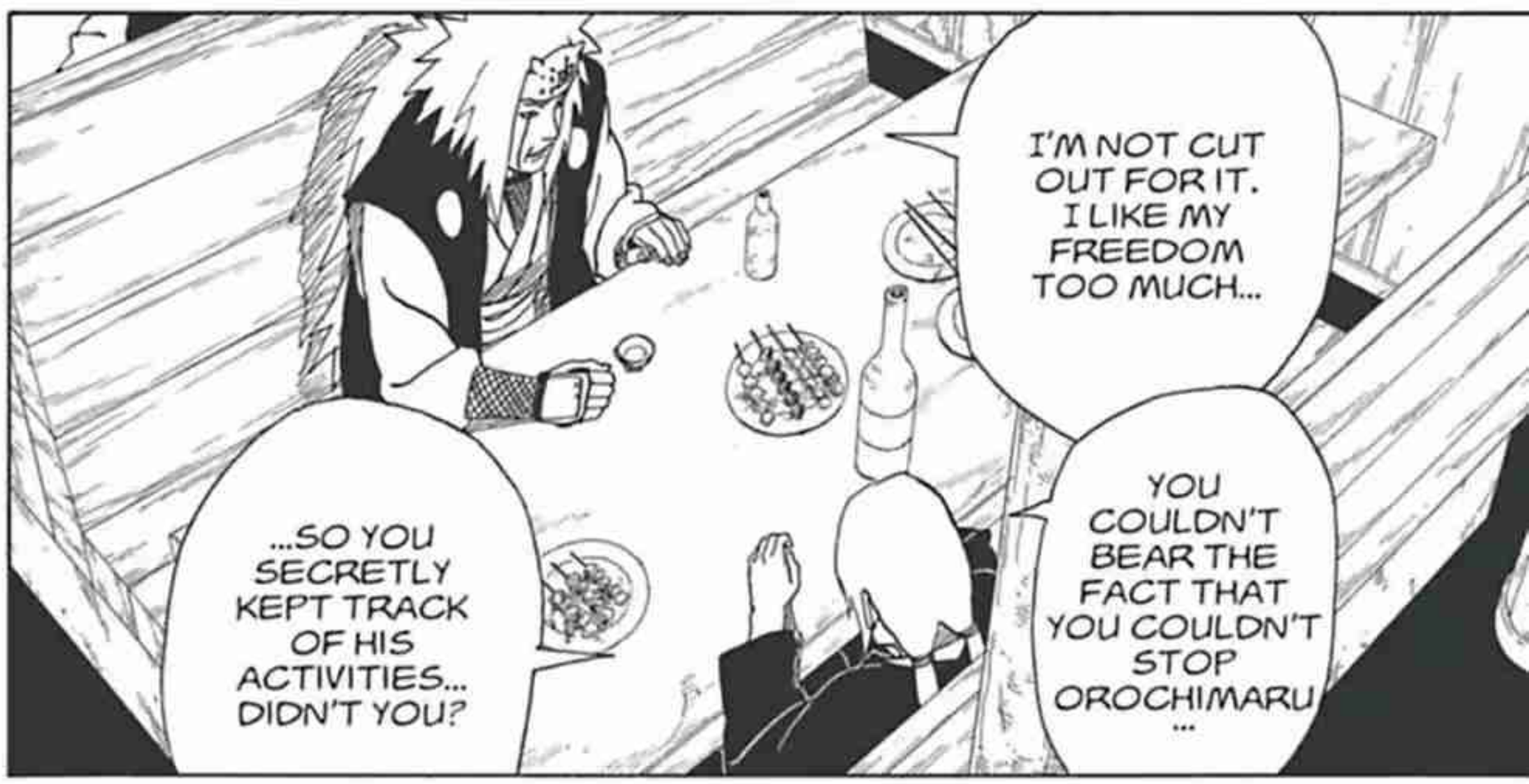
I AM STILL ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI OF KONOHA.
YOU DO REMEMBER WHAT THAT MEANS?
ALONE?! NO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS...!

I JUST FEEL BAD... THAT YOU KEEP GETTING STUCK WITH SUCH... UNFORTUNATE ASSIGNMENTS.


...

I KNOW IT'S WHAT THE THIRD HOKAGE ALWAYS HOPED...
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE FIFTH HOKAGE, NOT ME.

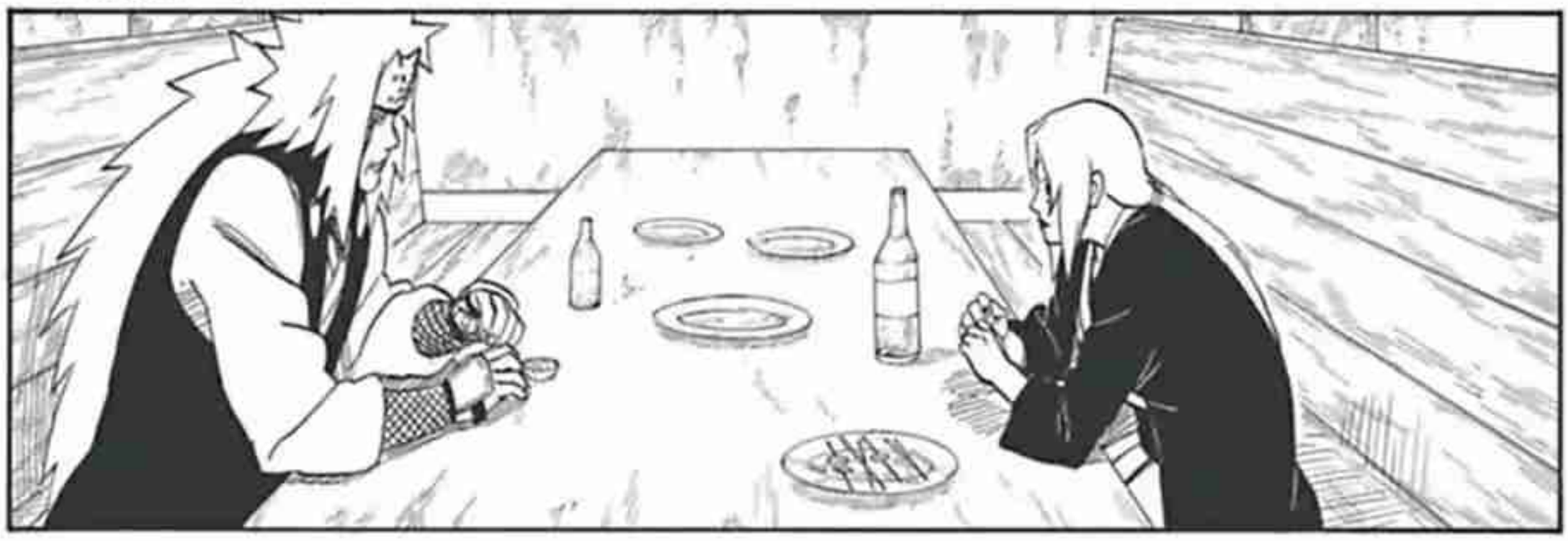
WHY SO RUEFUL ALL OF A SUDDEN ?!
HA HA HA HA!

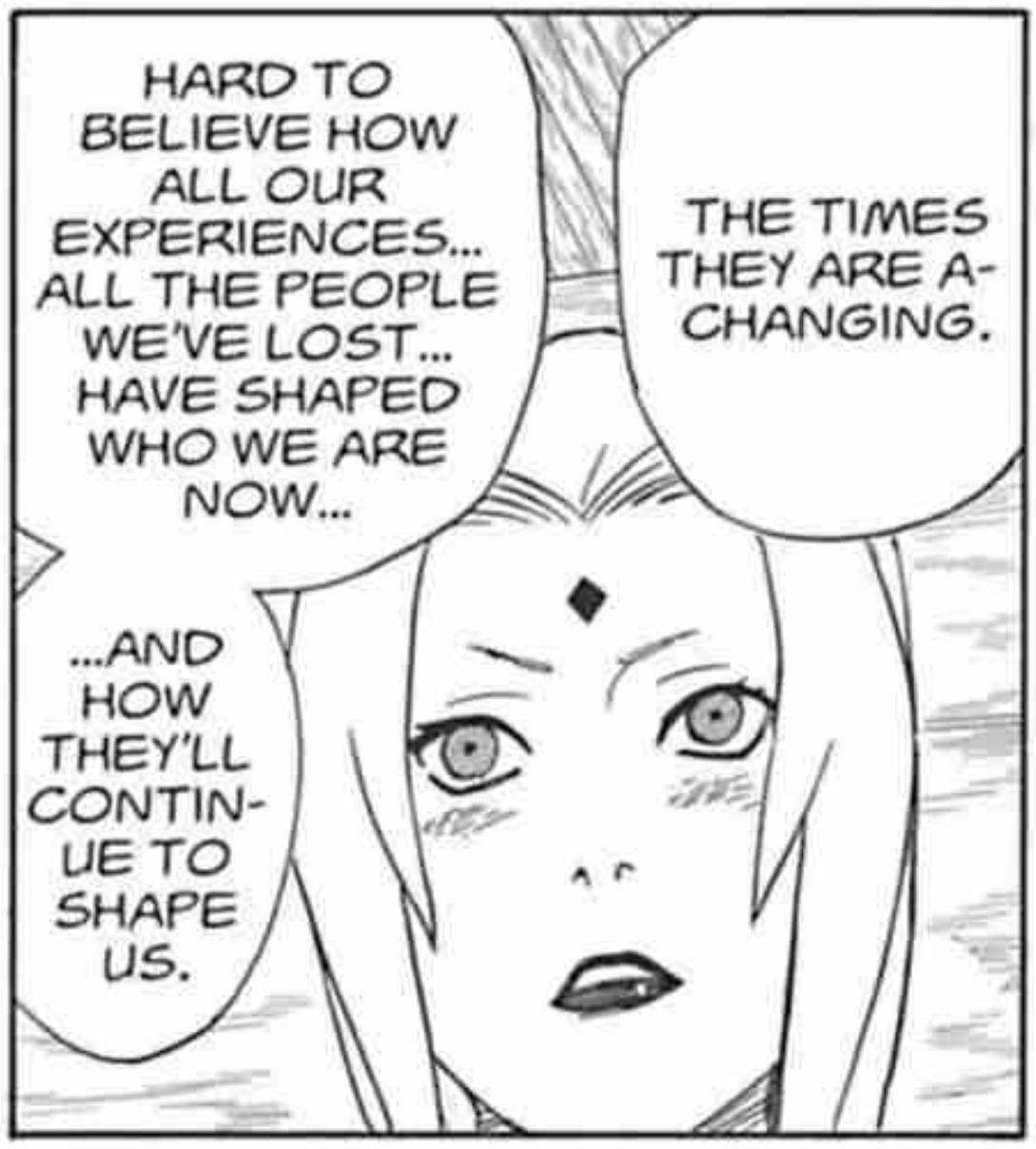

...SO YOU SECRETLY KEPT TRACK OF HIS ACTIVITIES... DIDN'T YOU?
I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR IT. I LIKE MY FREEDOM TOO MUCH...
YOU COULDN'T BEAR THE FACT THAT YOU COULDN'T STOP OROCHIMARU ...

I NEVER IMAGINED HE WOULD DIE...
FACT IS STRANGER THAN FICTION, EH...

NOW I CAN FOCUS ON MY NOVELS...
NO NEED FOR THAT ANY-MORE.

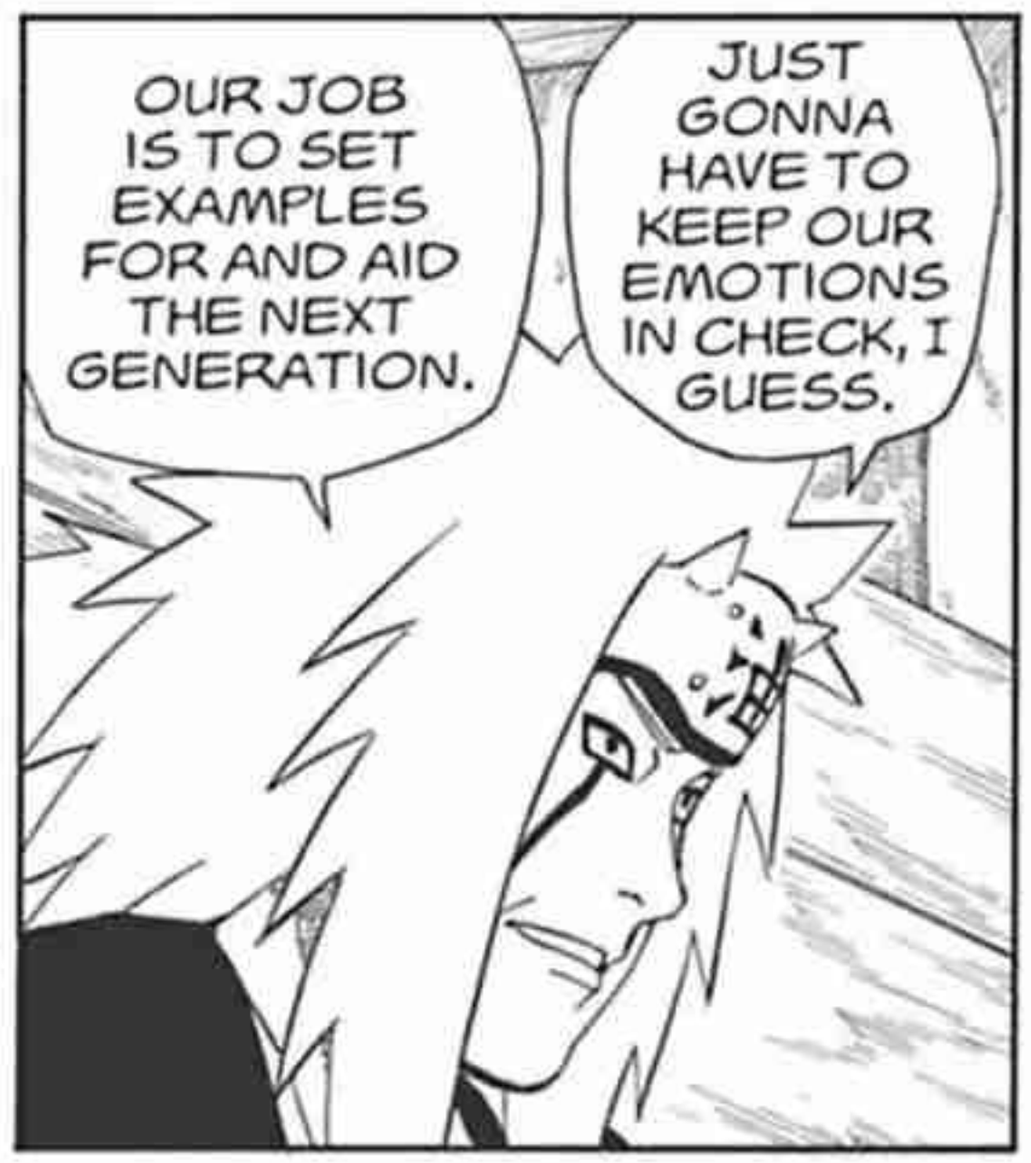
...



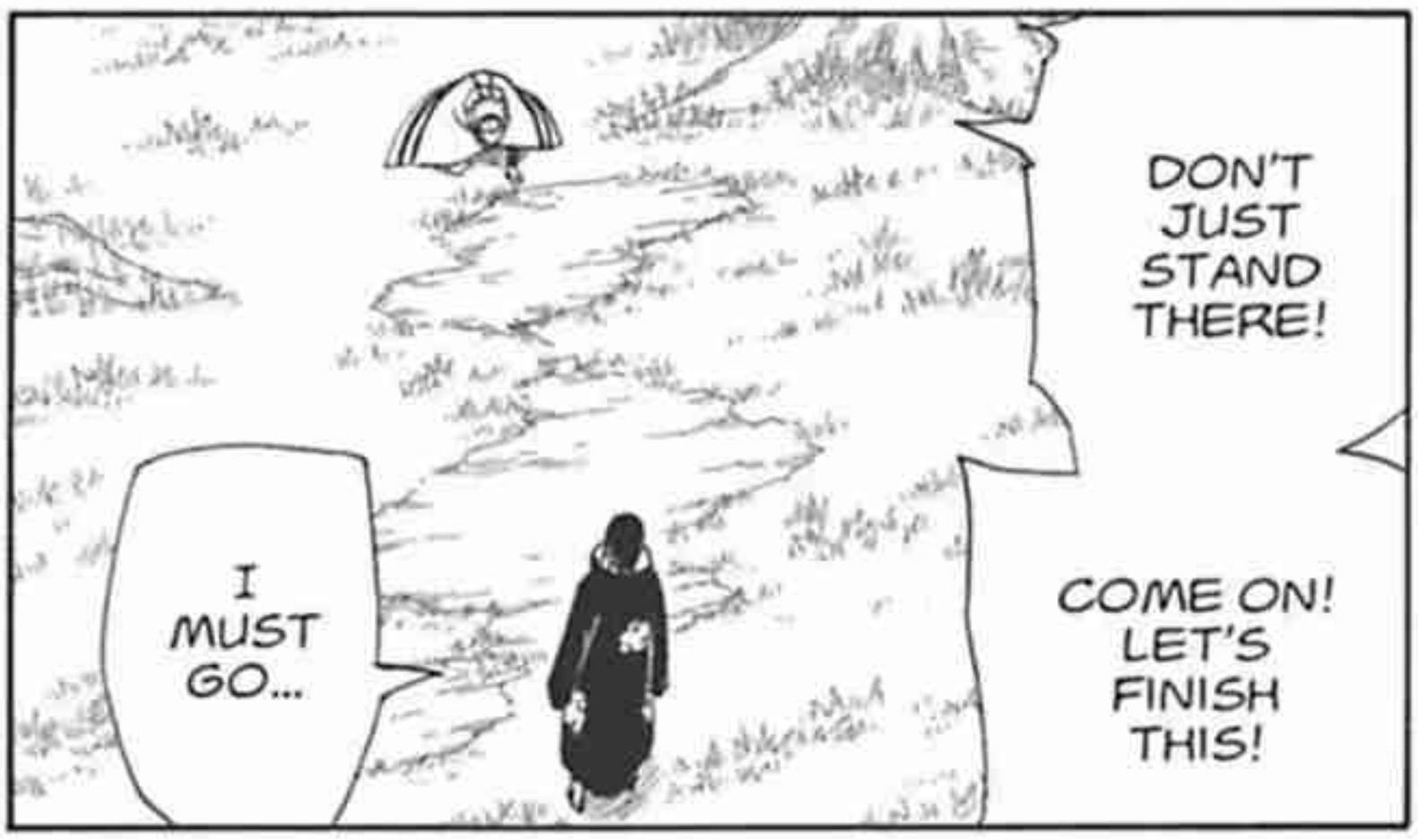

HARD TO BELIEVE HOW ALL OUR EXPERIENCES... ALL THE PEOPLE WE'VE LOST... HAVE SHAPED WHO WE ARE NOW...
THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING.
...AND HOW THEY'LL CONTIN-UE TO SHAPE US.

BUT LOOK AT YOU NOW... A 50-SOME-THING GRANNY... THE HOKAGE ...
BACK WHEN YOU HAD THE BODY OF A 12-YEAR-OLD BOY... HA!
REMEMBER HOW THE THREE OF US USED TO GANG UP ON OLD MAN THIRD ...

WISDOM... IT'S THE ONE THING THAT MAKES GROWING OLD WORTH IT...
FOR THAT CAUSE, I'LL GLADLY RISK MY LIFE.


OUR JOB IS TO SET EXAMPLES FOR AND AID THE NEXT GENERATION.
JUST GONNA HAVE TO KEEP OUR EMOTIONS IN CHECK, I GUESS.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

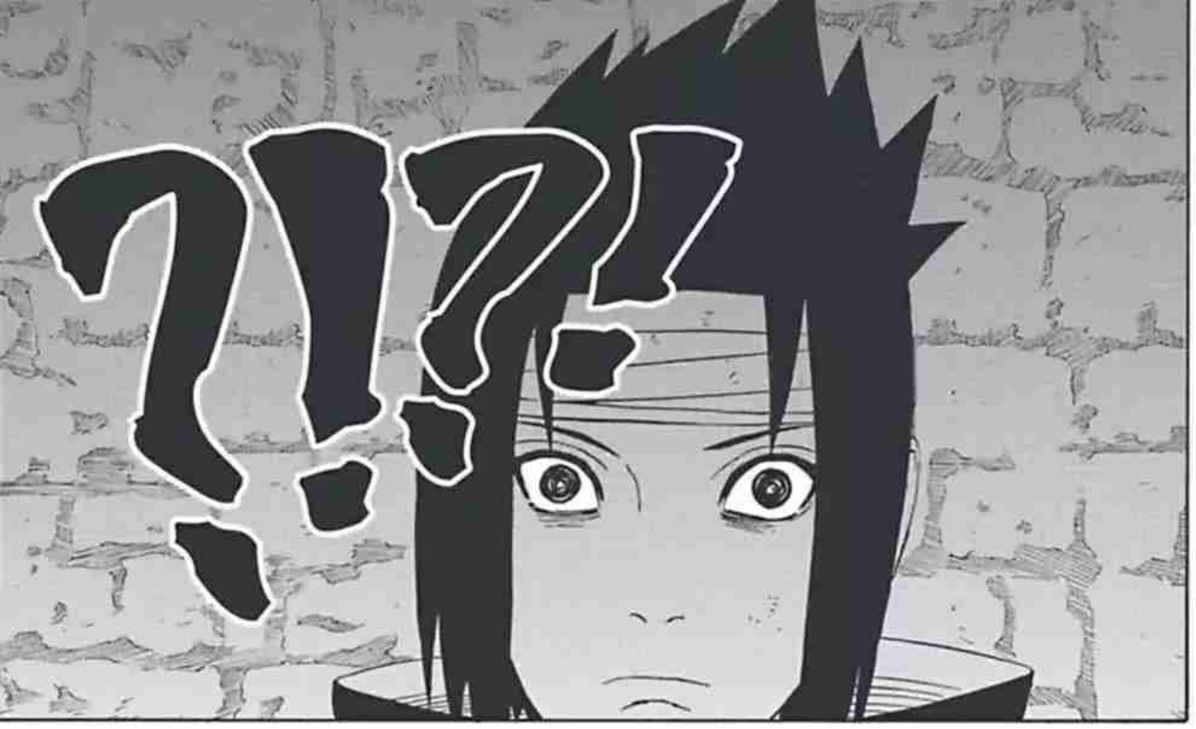

I MUST GO...
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
COME ON! LET'S FINISH THIS!

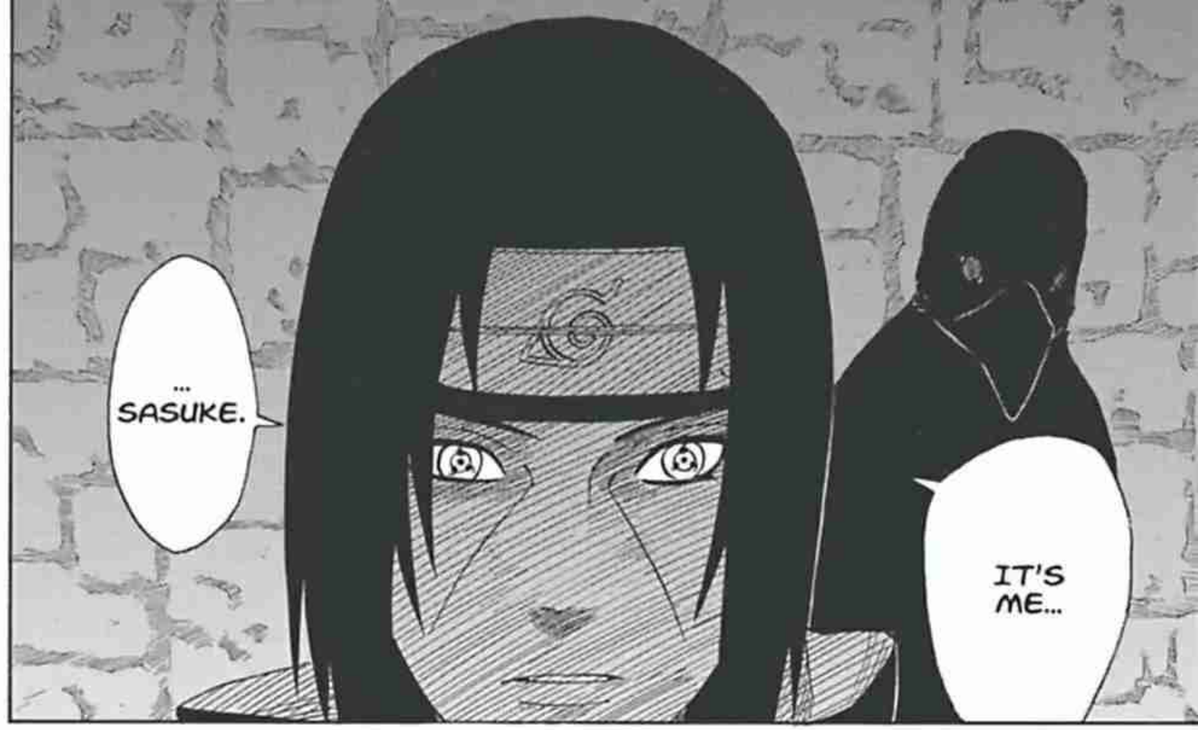
...

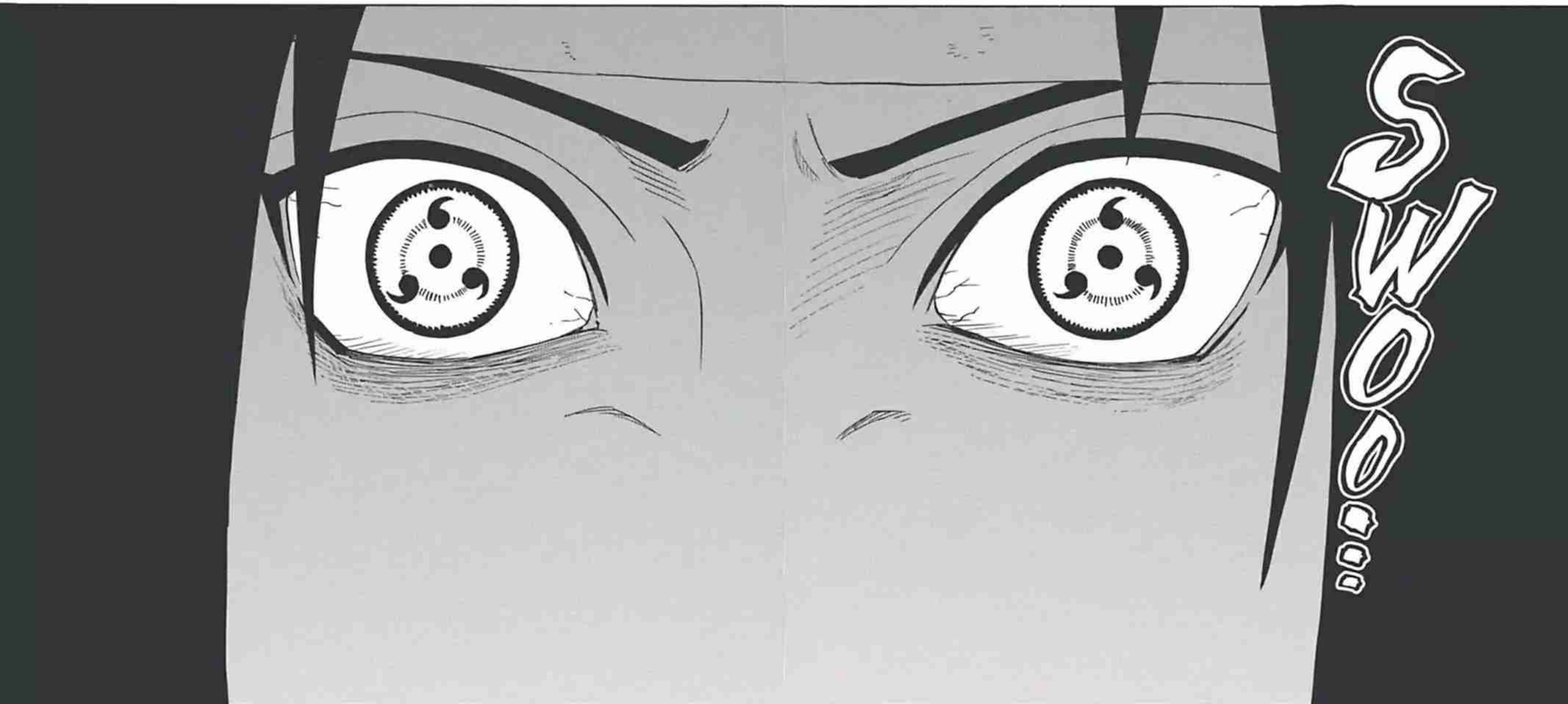
A SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER...!
SWOOSH...

I HAVE AN IMPOR-TANT MATTER TO ATTEND TO.

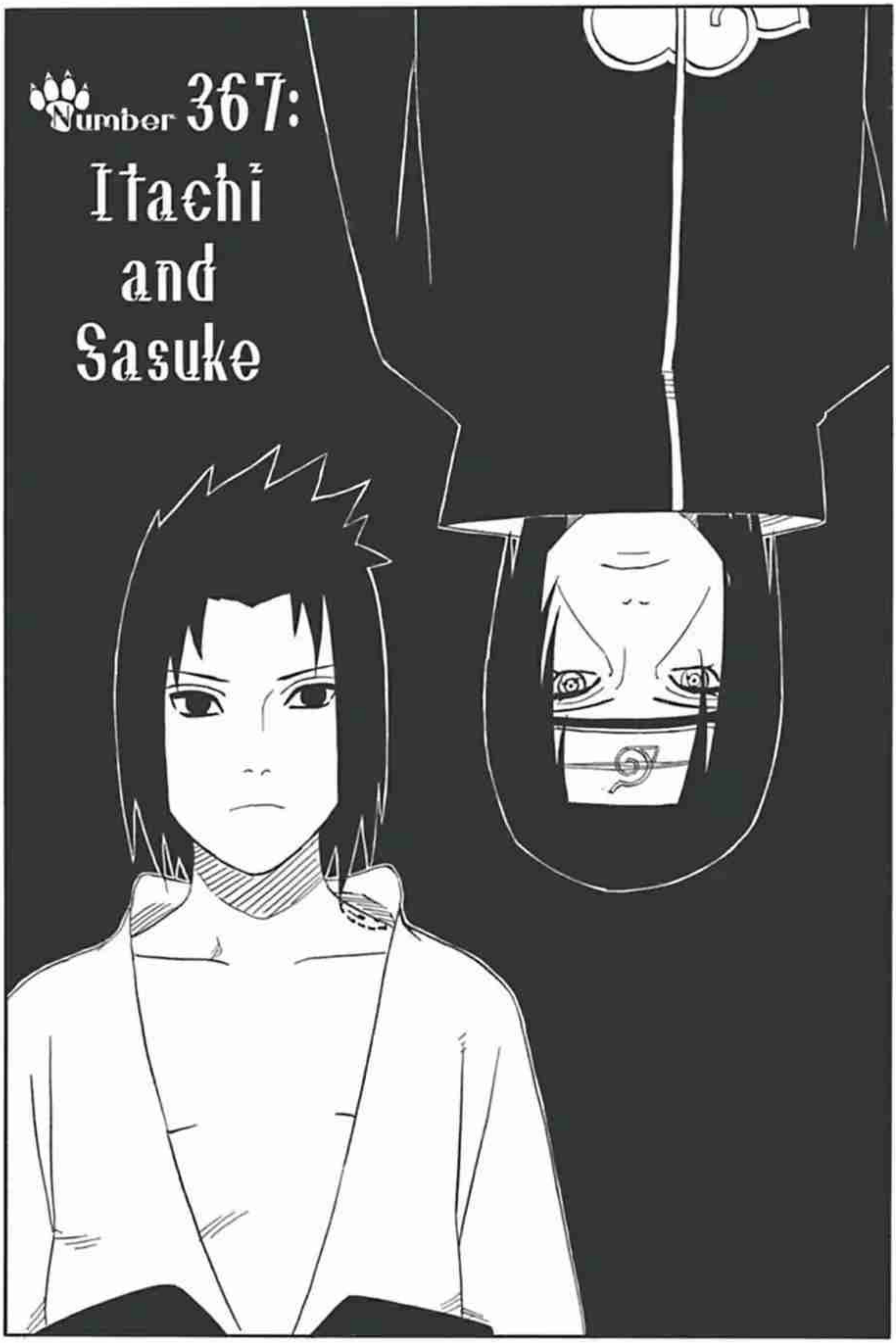
READ THIS WAY
SHUFFF...
...
!
HMMM
SHUFF SHUFF...
Slip
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?
SO. YOU'VE COME AT LAST ...


?!?!

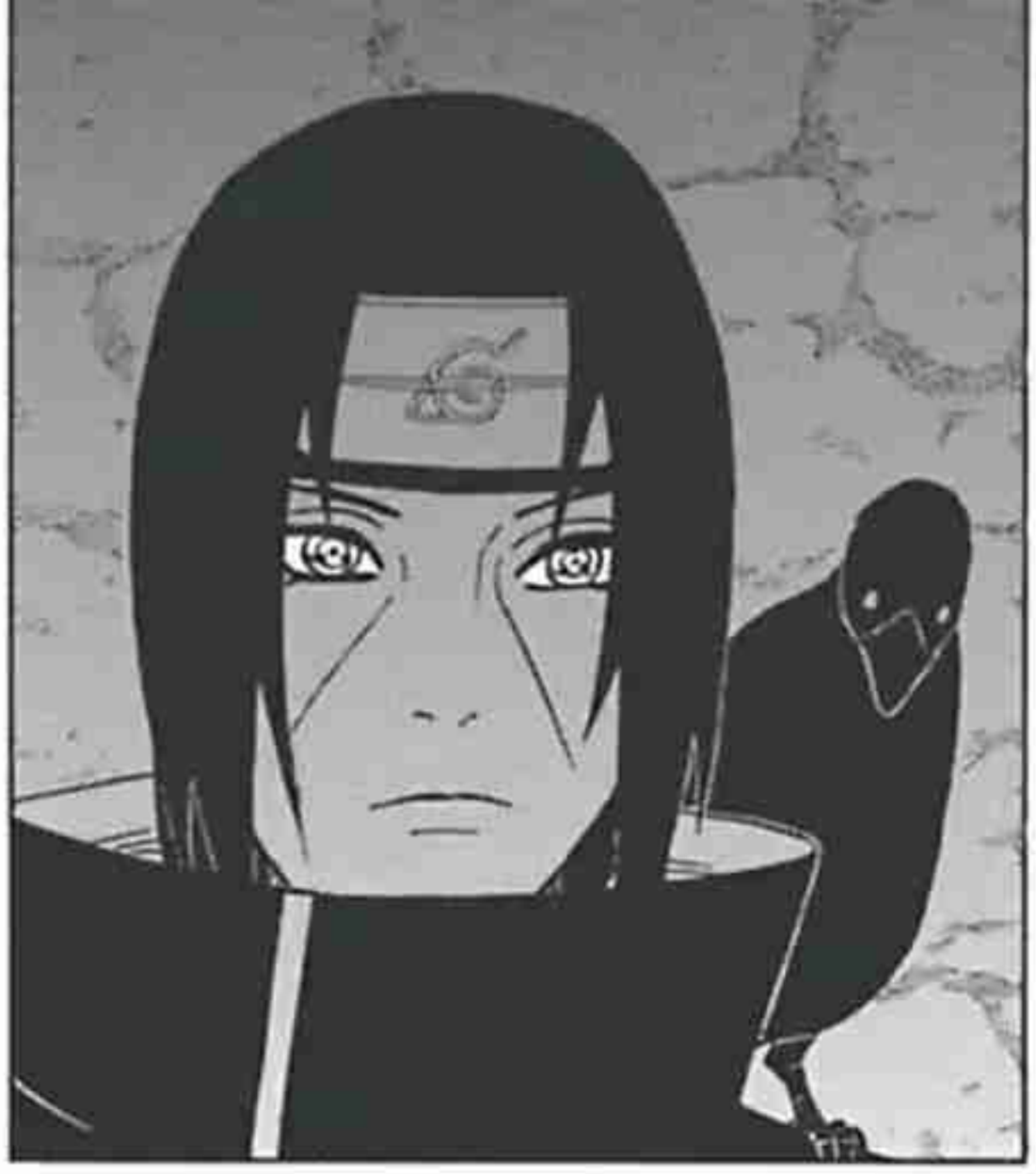

...
SASUKE.
IT'S ME...

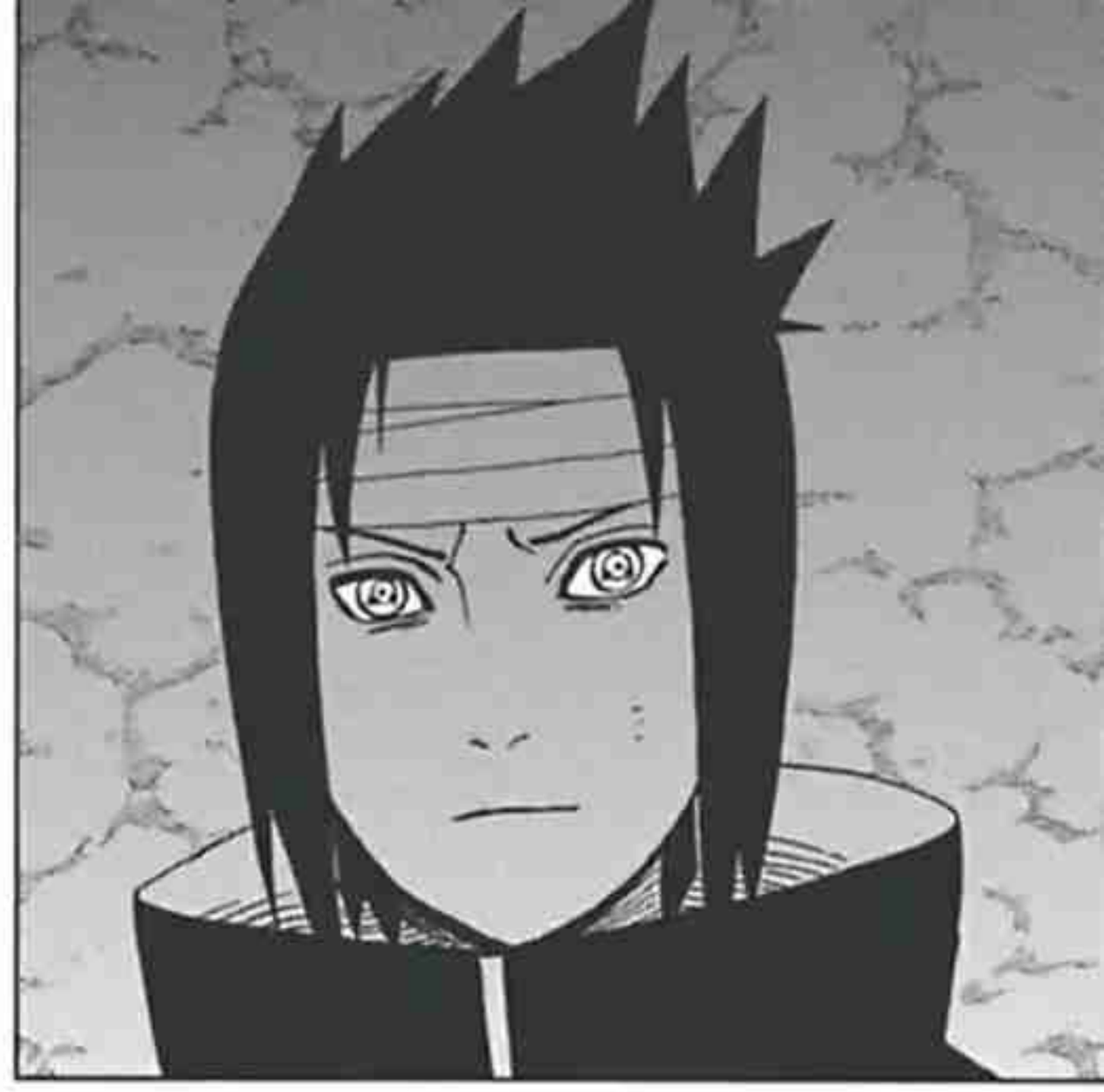

SWOO!!

NARUTO



Number 367: Itachi and Sasuke





YOU LOOK TALLER...

HEH ...

...GOING TO JUST GO CRAZY AND CHARGE ME LIKE LAST TIME, ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT...

YOUR EYES STILL COLD...
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

READ THIS WAY
YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ME...
...!
SWISH
TUP

CAW!
TH
SS

SHH

BZZZ

NG

...YOU. KNOW. NOTHING!

... HOW STRONG IT HAS MADE ME...

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH HATRED FOR YOU I HOLD IN MY HEART...

ZAP-ZAP-ZAP-ZAP-ZAP-ZAP

?!

BLLLLLL

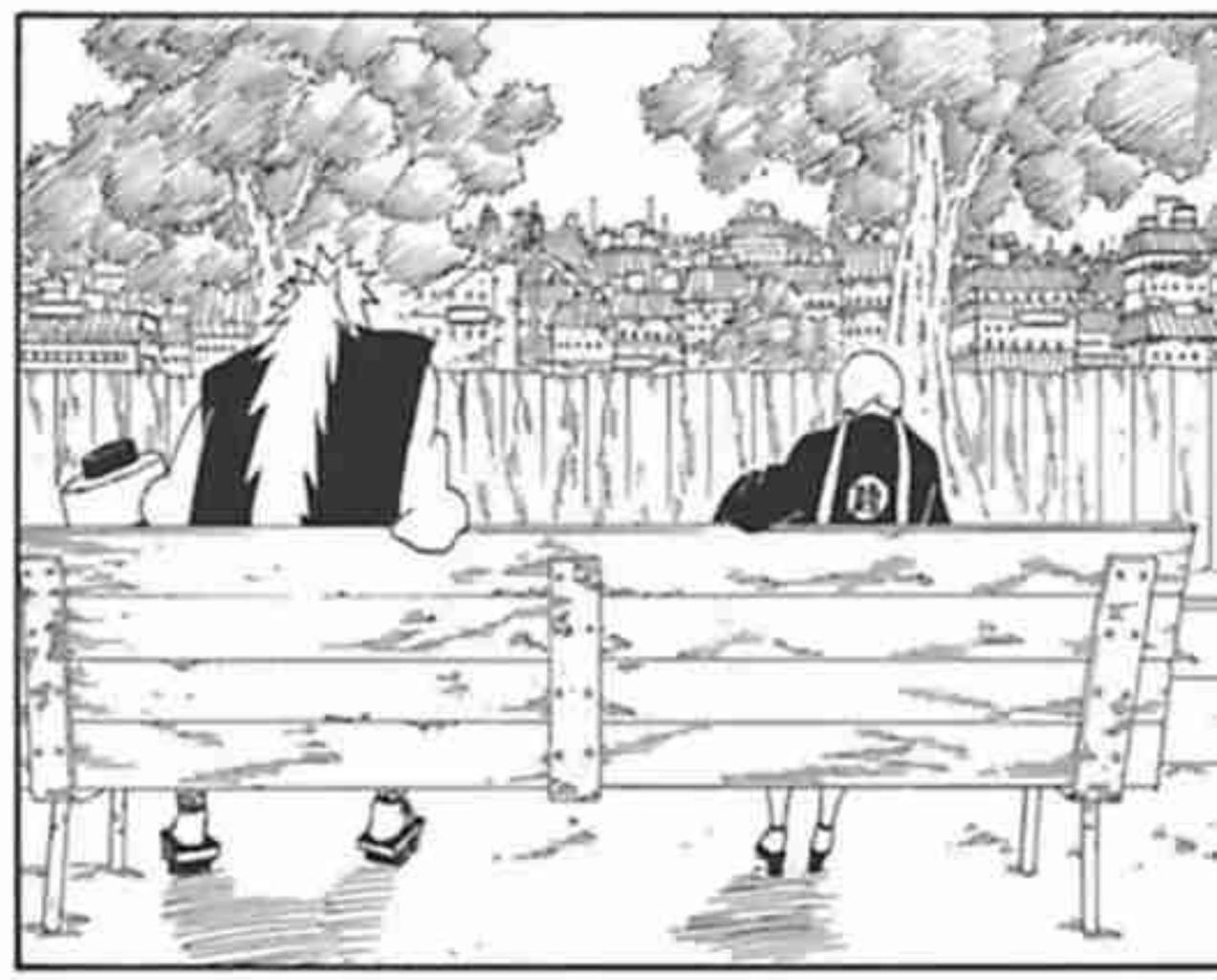
GAKK

GAKK

SPLOSH

YOU'RE AN EVEN WORSE DRUNK THAN ME.
WHY DON'T WE GO SIT SOME-WHERE AND REST.

WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW STRONG THEY ARE...
...AND YET YOU'RE GOING TO INTEN-TIONALLY LEAP RIGHT INTO THEIR LAIR?!
THE AKA-TSUKI...
...THEY'VE MANAGED TO AS-SEMBLE QUITE A FORMIDA-BLE CREW.



JIRAIYA, JUST... COME BACK ALIVE...

I SHOULD GET GOING.
SWSH

BET YOU WON'T SHED AS MANY TEARS AS YOU DID FOR DAN... WA-HA HA.
HA HA HA

WHAT? YOU'D CRY? AWW, THAT MAKES MY DAY.
IF I LOST YOU TOO... I...

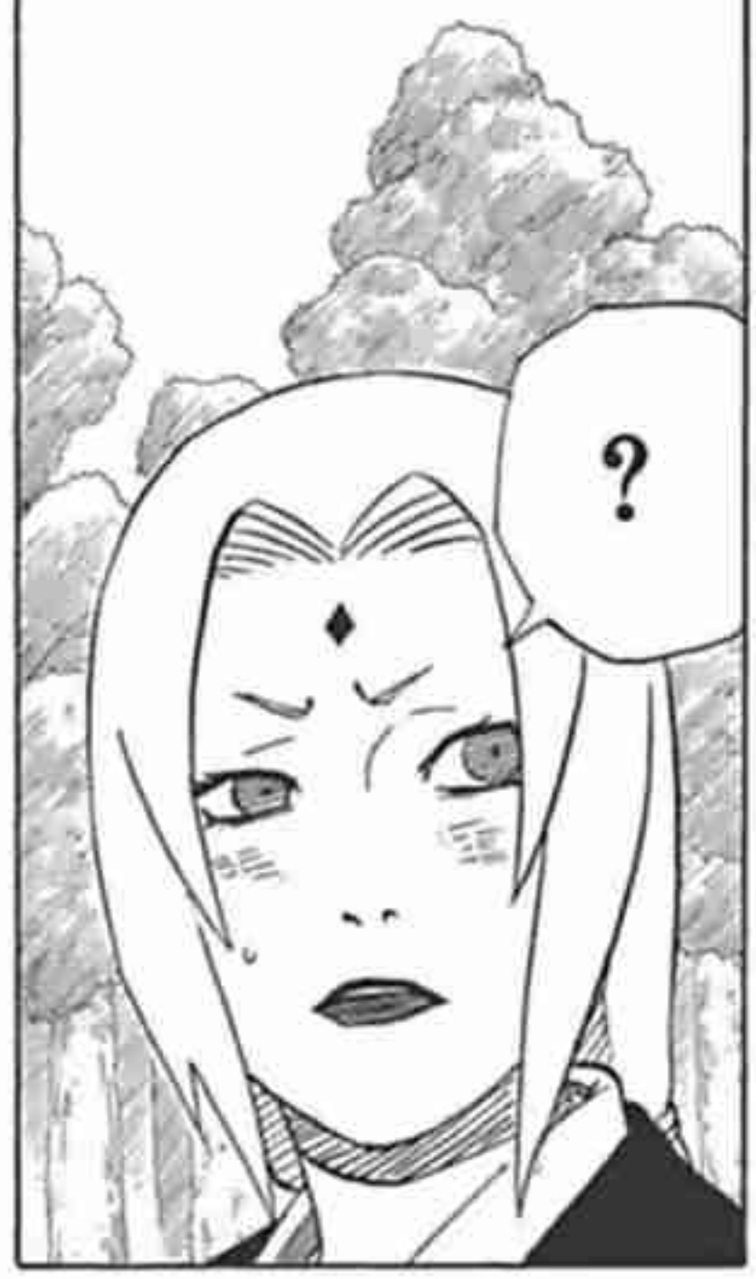
...

SINCE YOU ALWAYS LOSE.
A BET, THEN...
...YOU GAMBLE EVERY-THING ON ME DYING.

HUSH, FOOL!

WHA...

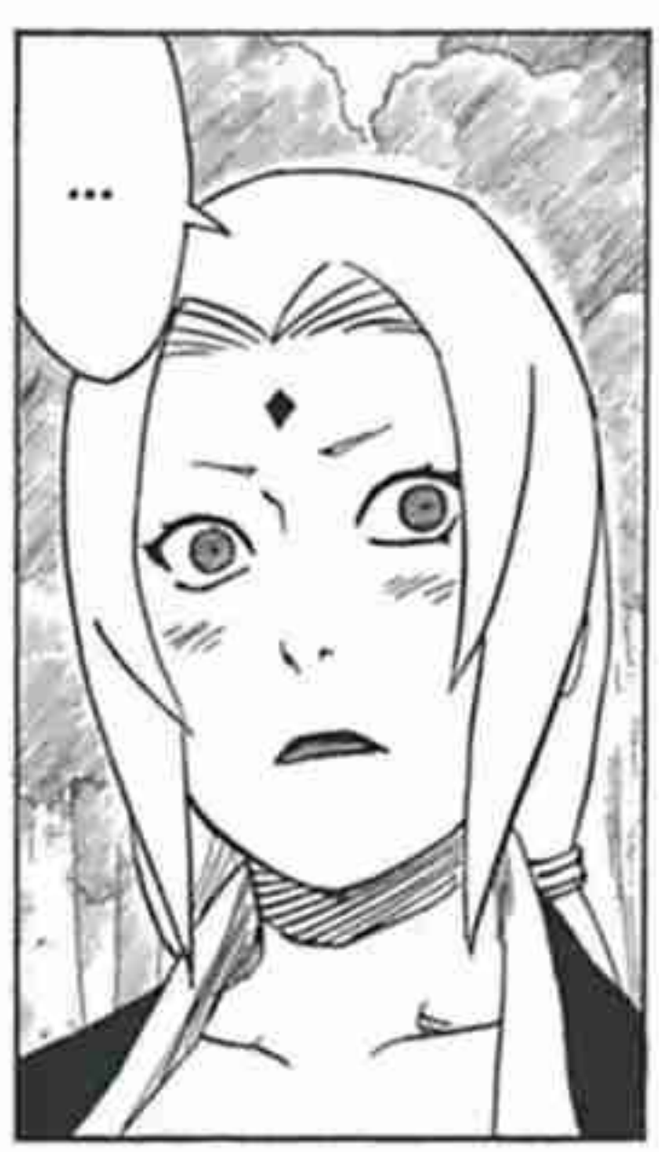
BUT IF I MAKE IT BACK ALIVE...


?

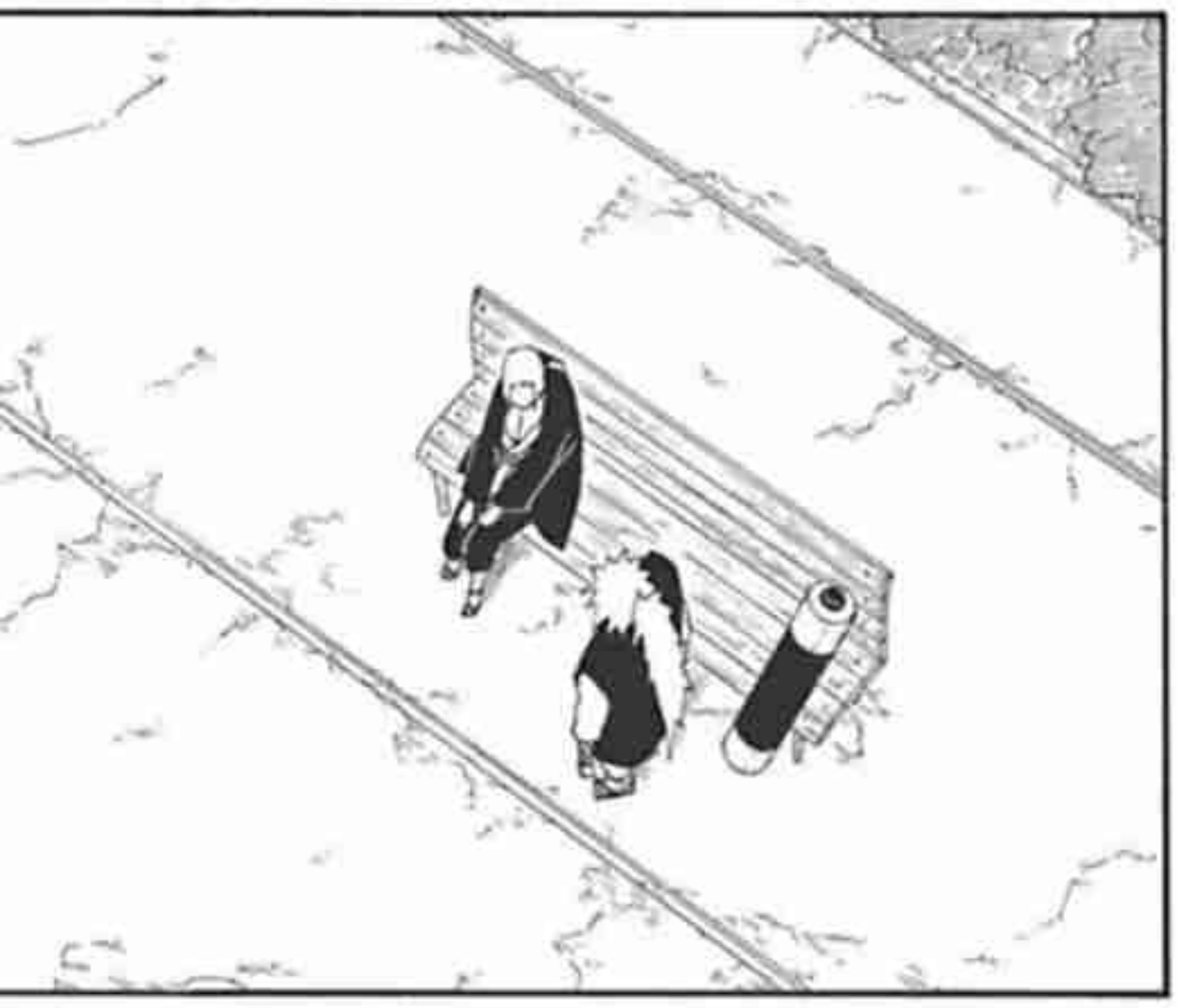
油
I'M SO GRATE-FUL TO YOU, YOU KNOW.
GWA-HA HA, JUST KIDDING, JUST KIDDING!

SO A MAN'S ONLY JOB IS TO BE STRONG?

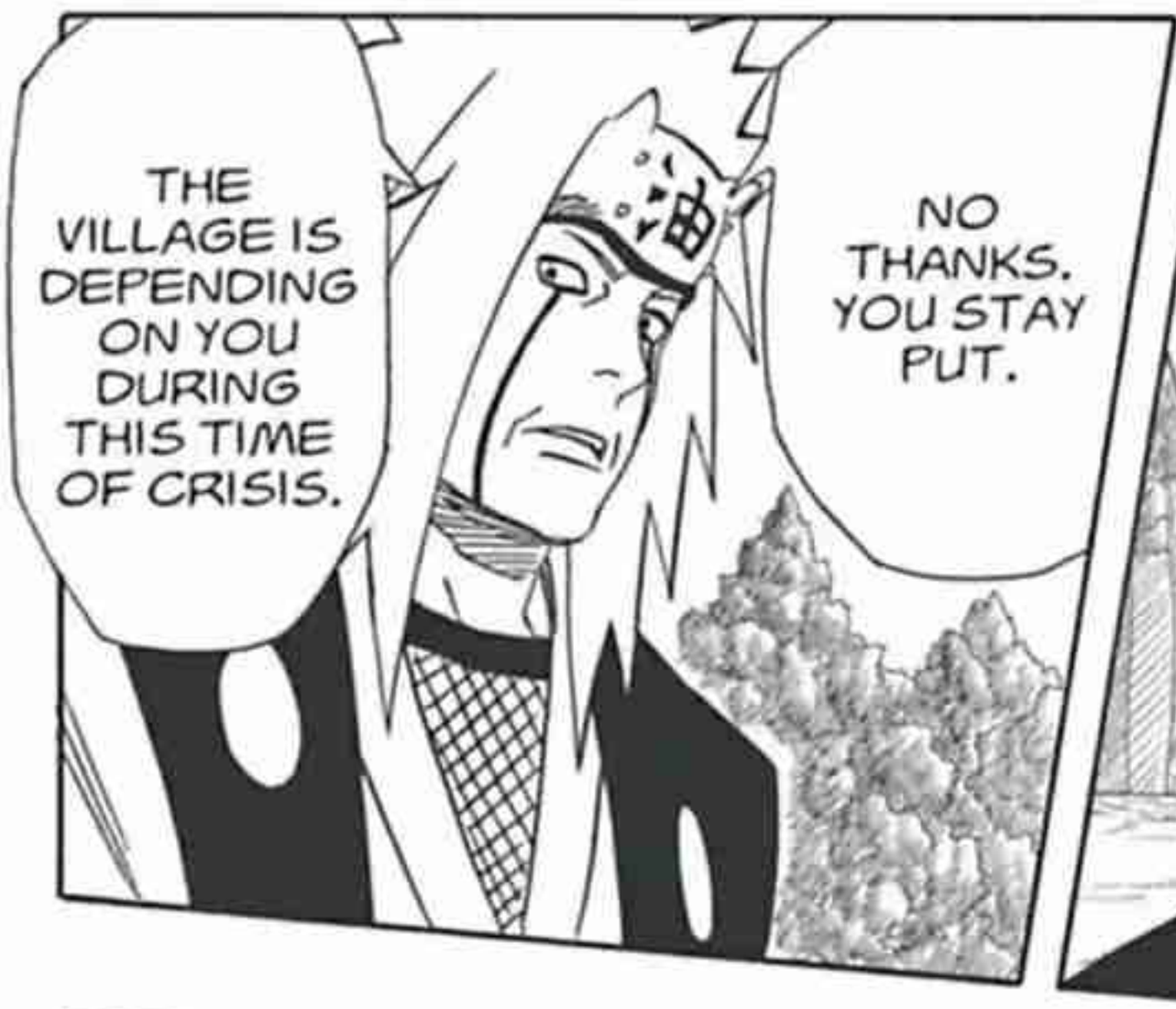
IF YOU CAN'T LAUGH ABOUT IT... OR AT LEAST USE IT AS WRITING MATERIAL ...
...YOU'RE NOT A REAL MAN.
REJEC-TION MAKES MEN STRON-GER.
MAKE-OUT PARADISE
ペラペラ


...

油
BASICALLY. THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS ISN'T FOR US...



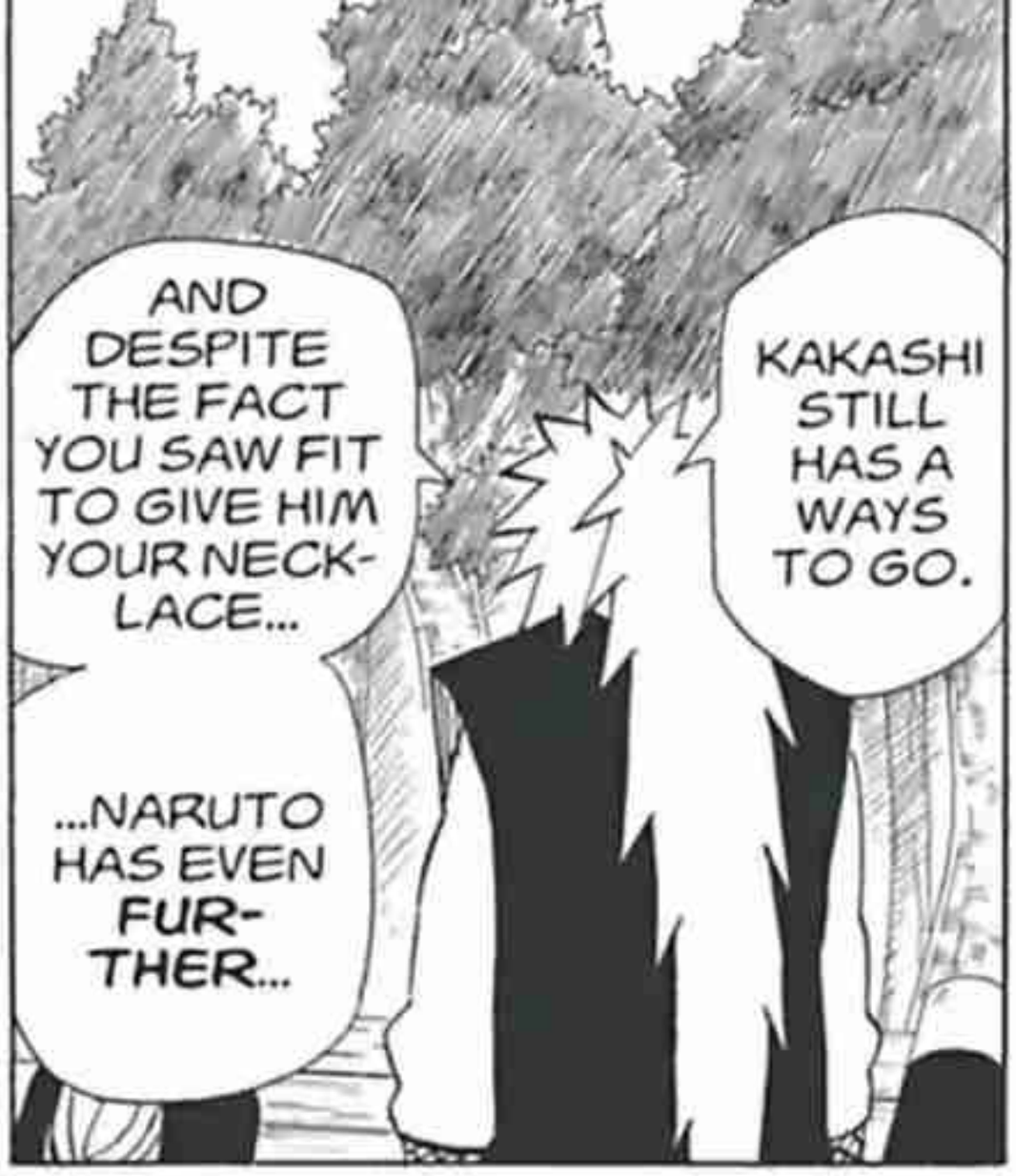
IF THERE WEREN'T ANY WOMEN, THERE WOULD BE NO REJECTION EITHER.
HUMPH... YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT.
HA HA, FOR SURE.


THE VILLAGE IS DEPENDING ON YOU DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS.
NO THANKS. YOU STAY PUT.

I'LL COME RIGHT AWAY.
ANYTHING HAPPENS, YOU'LL SEND WORD VIA TOAD, ALL RIGHT?

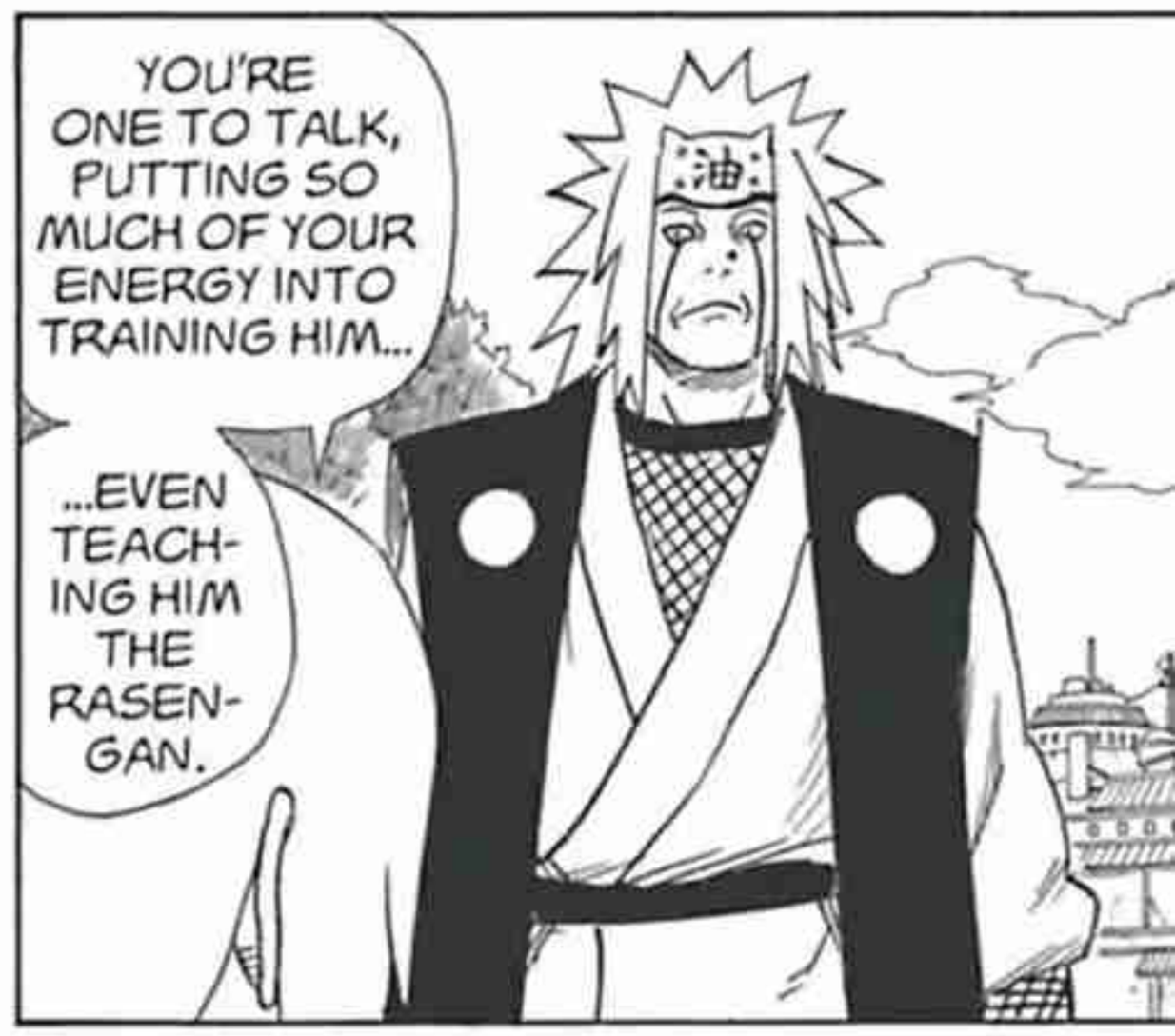
AND THERE IS NO BETTER HOKAGE IN KONOHA RIGHT NOW THAN YOU!
THE VILLAGE WON'T REMAIN STABLE IF ITS LEADER-SHIP KEEPS CHANGING.

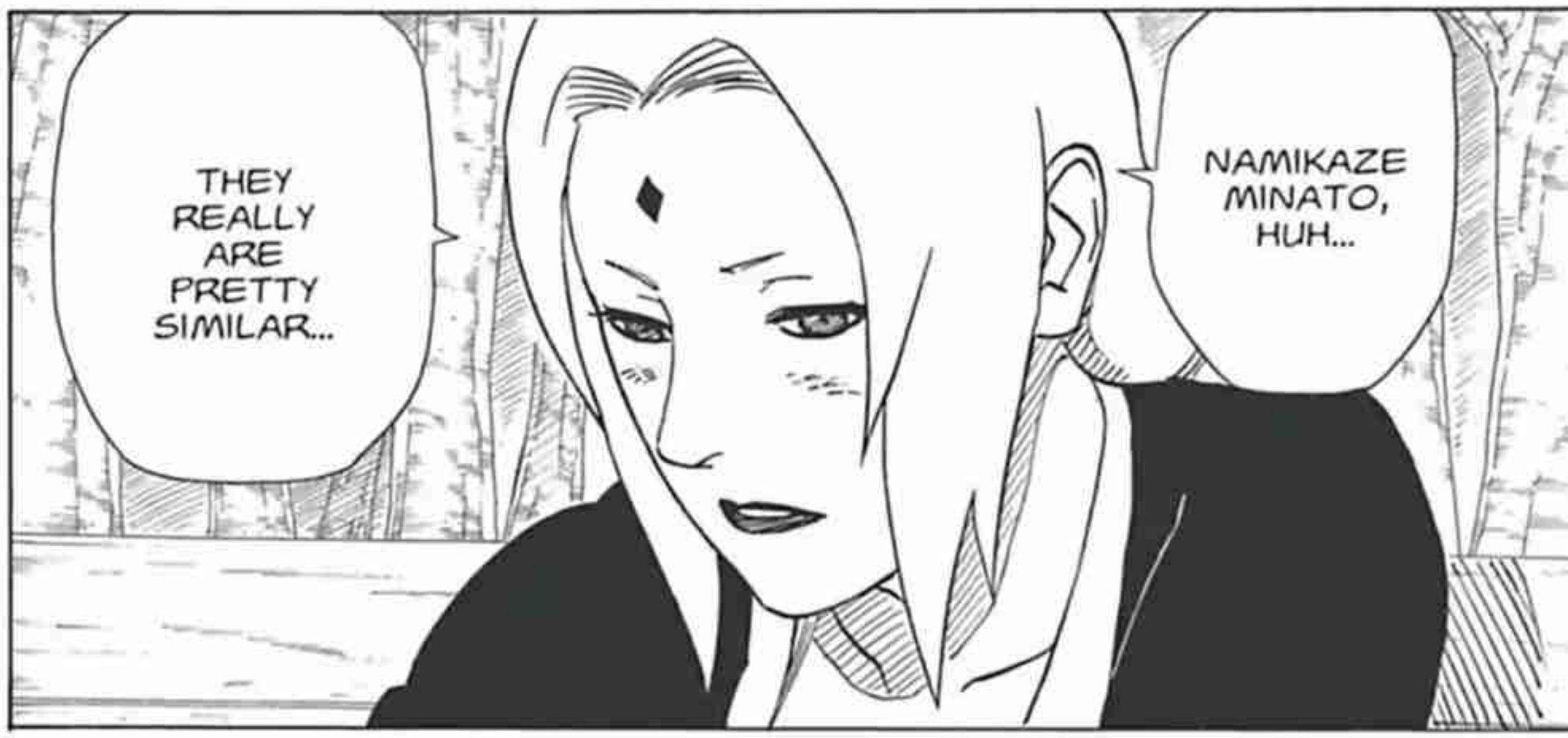
THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER HOKAGE CANDI-DATES.


AND DESPITE THE FACT YOU SAW FIT TO GIVE HIM YOUR NECK-LACE...
KAKASHI STILL HAS A WAYS TO GO.
...NARUTO HAS EVEN FUR-THER...

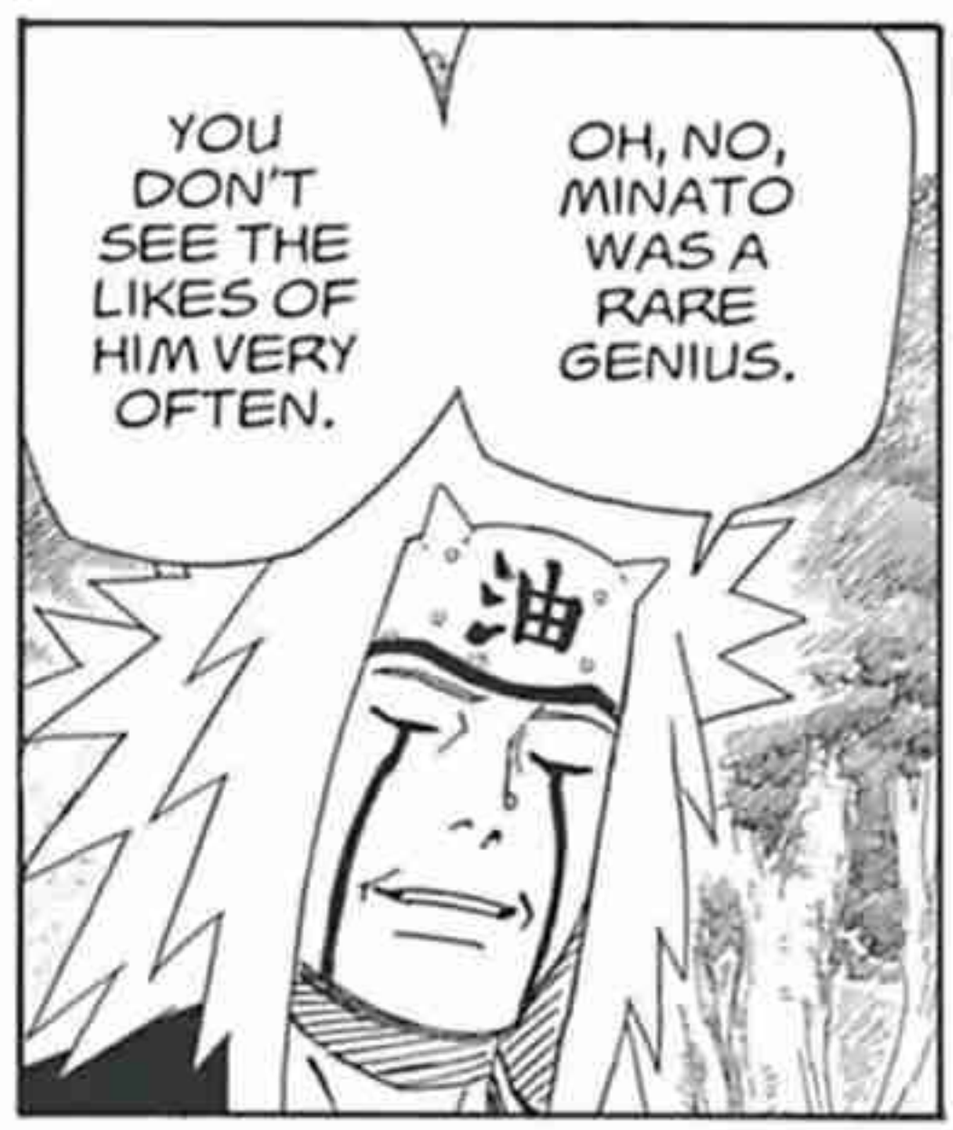
THERE'S KAKASHI...
...AND EVENTU-ALLY, NARUTO.

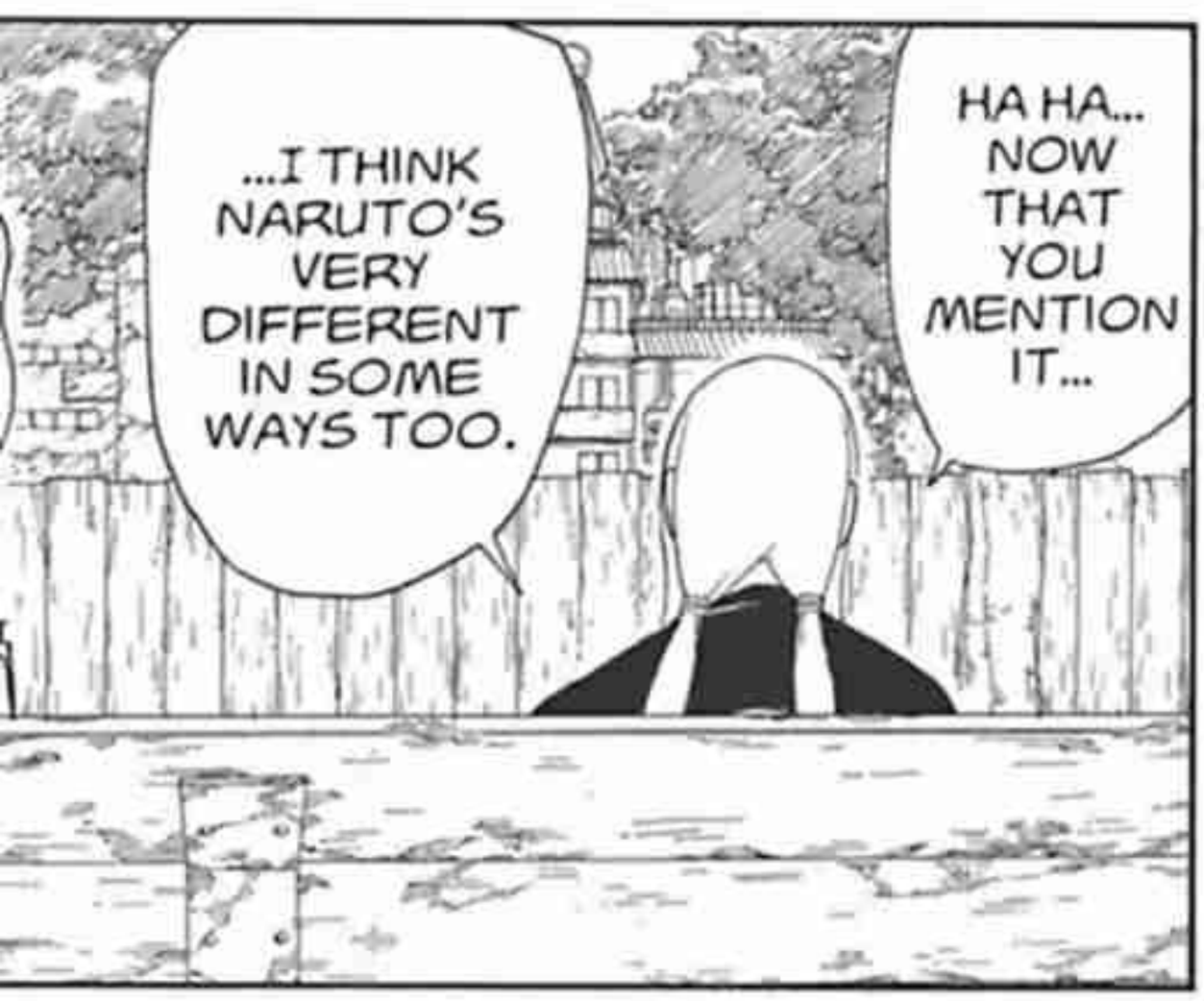
...OF THE TIME I TAUGHT MINATO.
YEAH, WELL... IT BROUGHT BACK MEMO-RIES...
油

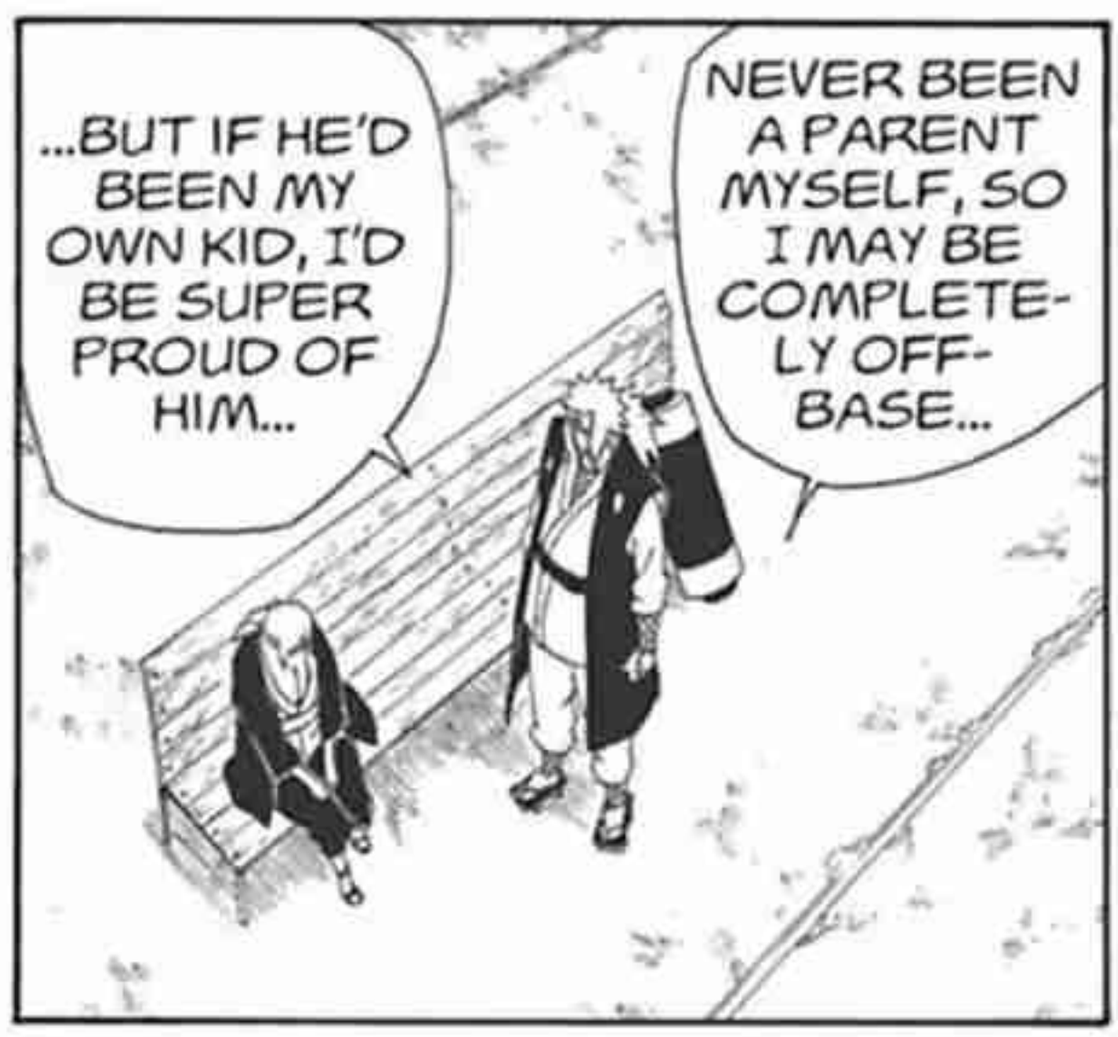

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, PUTTING SO MUCH OF YOUR ENERGY INTO TRAINING HIM...
...EVEN TEACH-ING HIM THE RASEN-GAN.
油

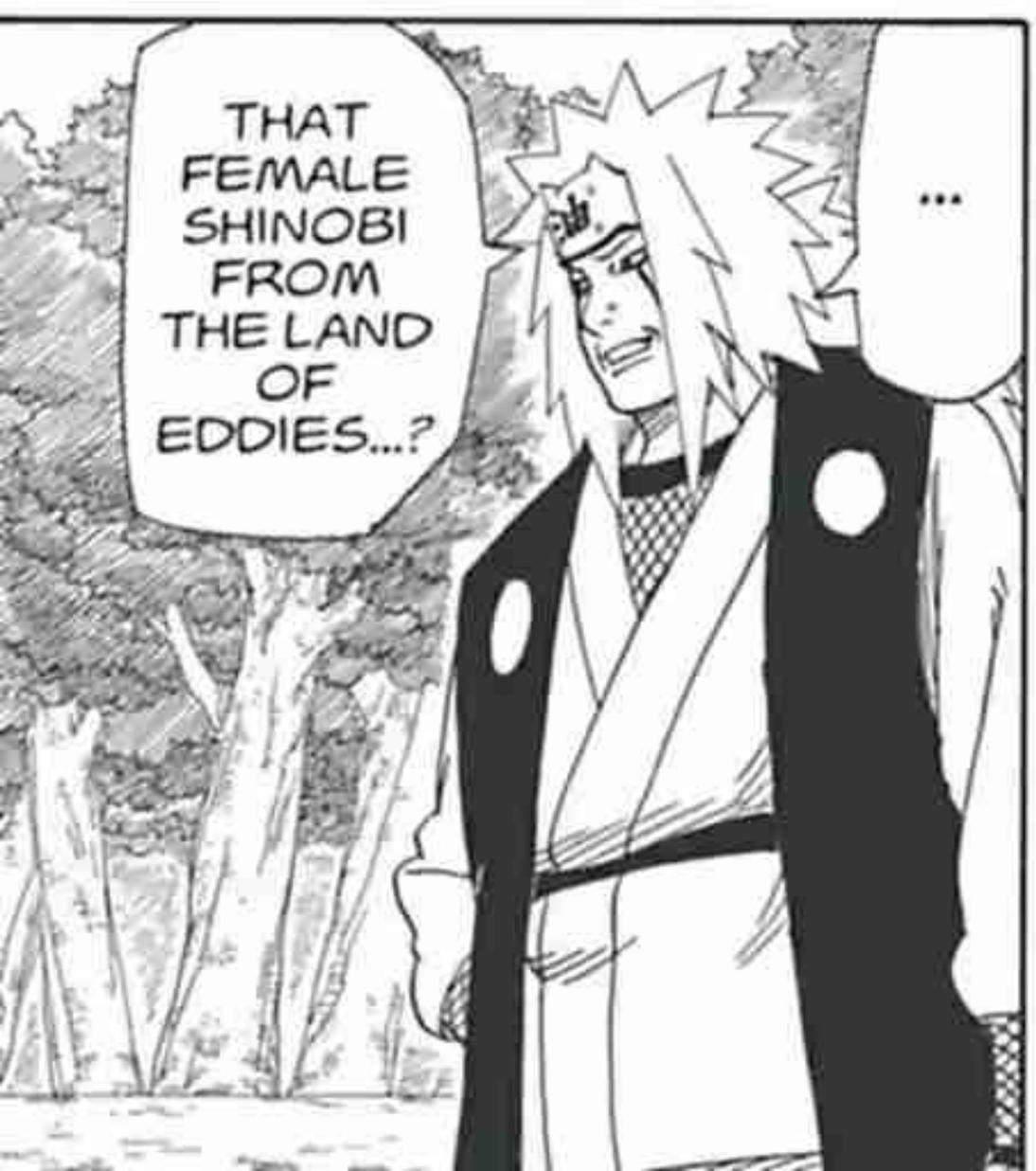

THEY REALLY ARE PRETTY SIMILAR...
NAMIKAZE MINATO, HUH...

BECAME THE FOURTH HOKAGE IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
HE WAS KIND AND GENTLE, YET FIERCE AND FULL OF GRIT.


YOU DON'T SEE THE LIKES OF HIM VERY OFTEN.
OH, NO, MINATO WAS A RARE GENIUS.


...I THINK NARUTO'S VERY DIFFERENT IN SOME WAYS TOO.
HA HA... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

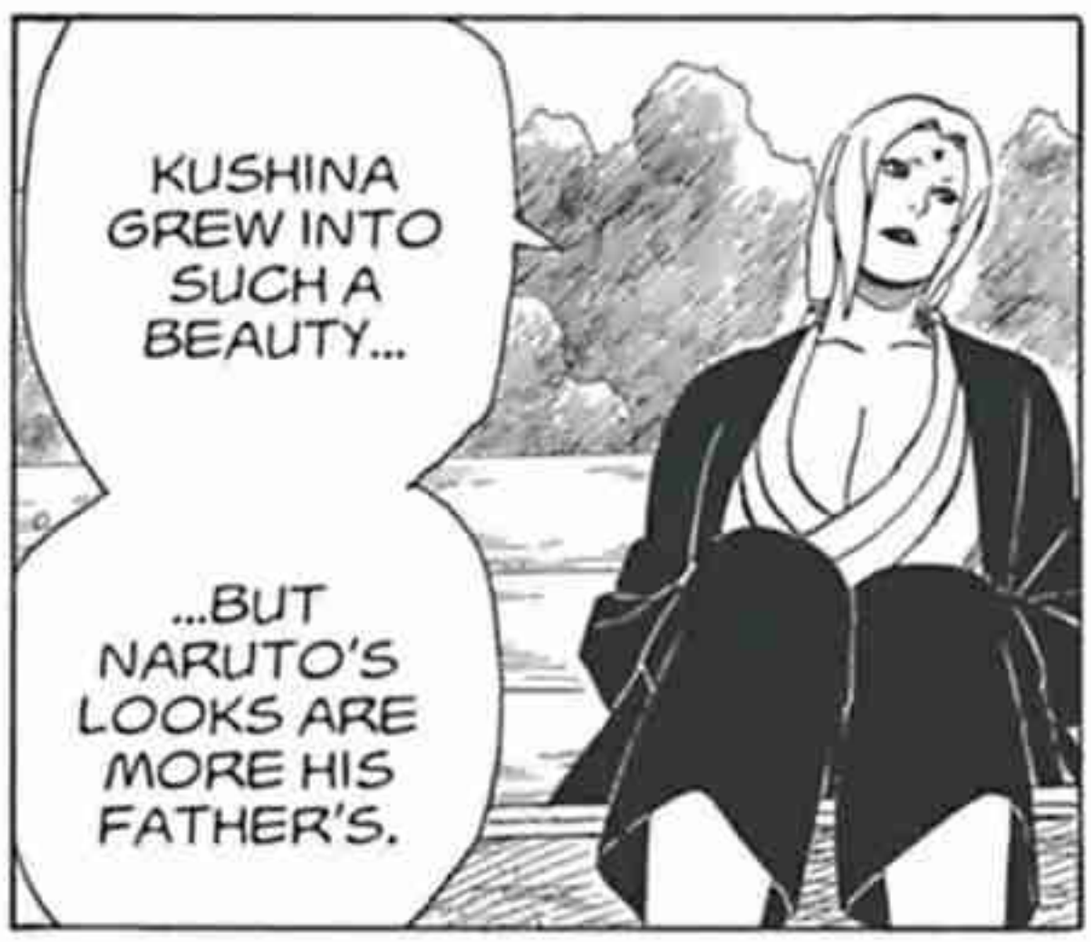

...BUT IF HE'D BEEN MY OWN KID, I'D BE SUPER PROUD OF HIM...
NEVER BEEN A PARENT MYSELF, SO I MAY BE COMPLETELY OFF-BASE...


THAT FEMALE SHINOBI FROM THE LAND OF EDDIES...?
...

HE'S MORE LIKE HIS MOTHER...

...HE DEFINITELY GOT FROM UZUMAKI KUSHINA.

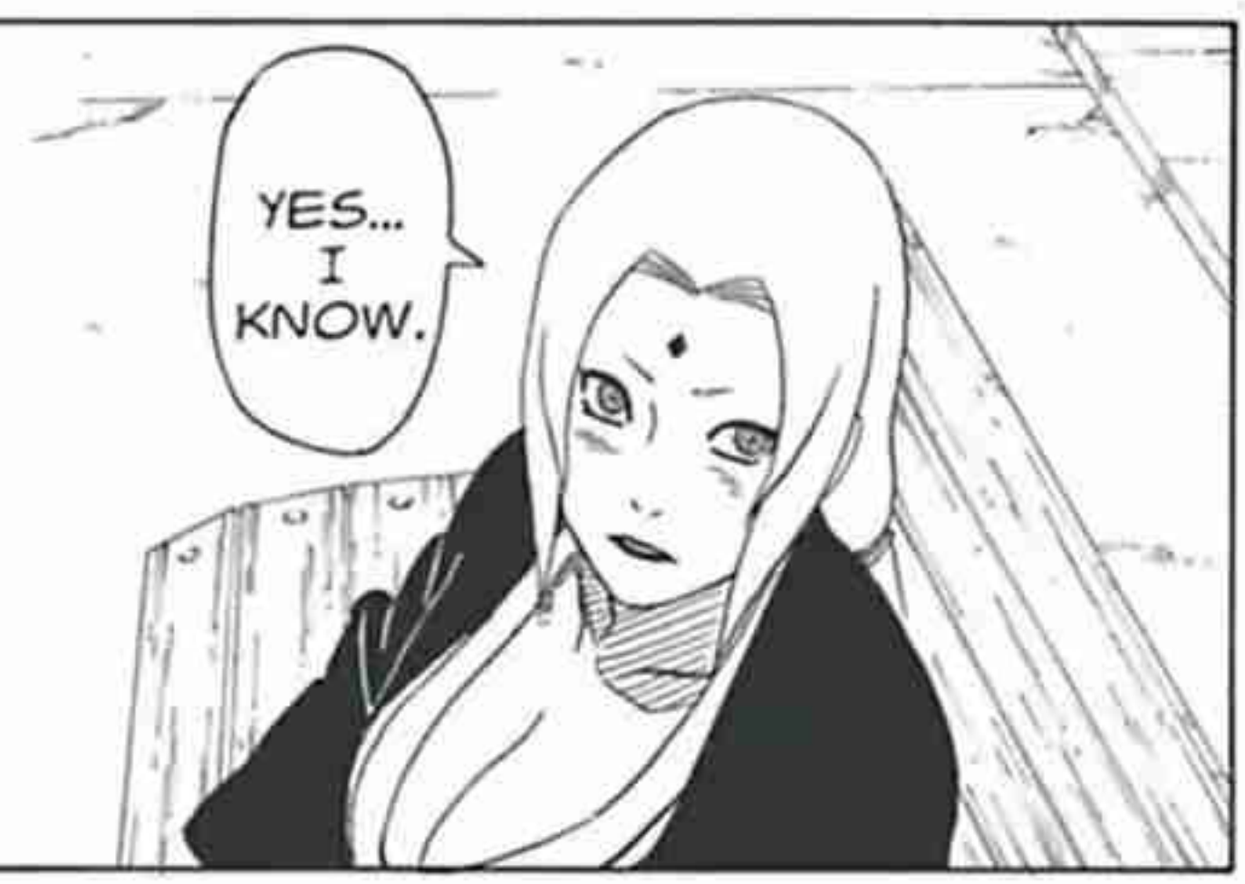
YEAH... HIS PERSONALITY AND NINJUTSU STYLE...



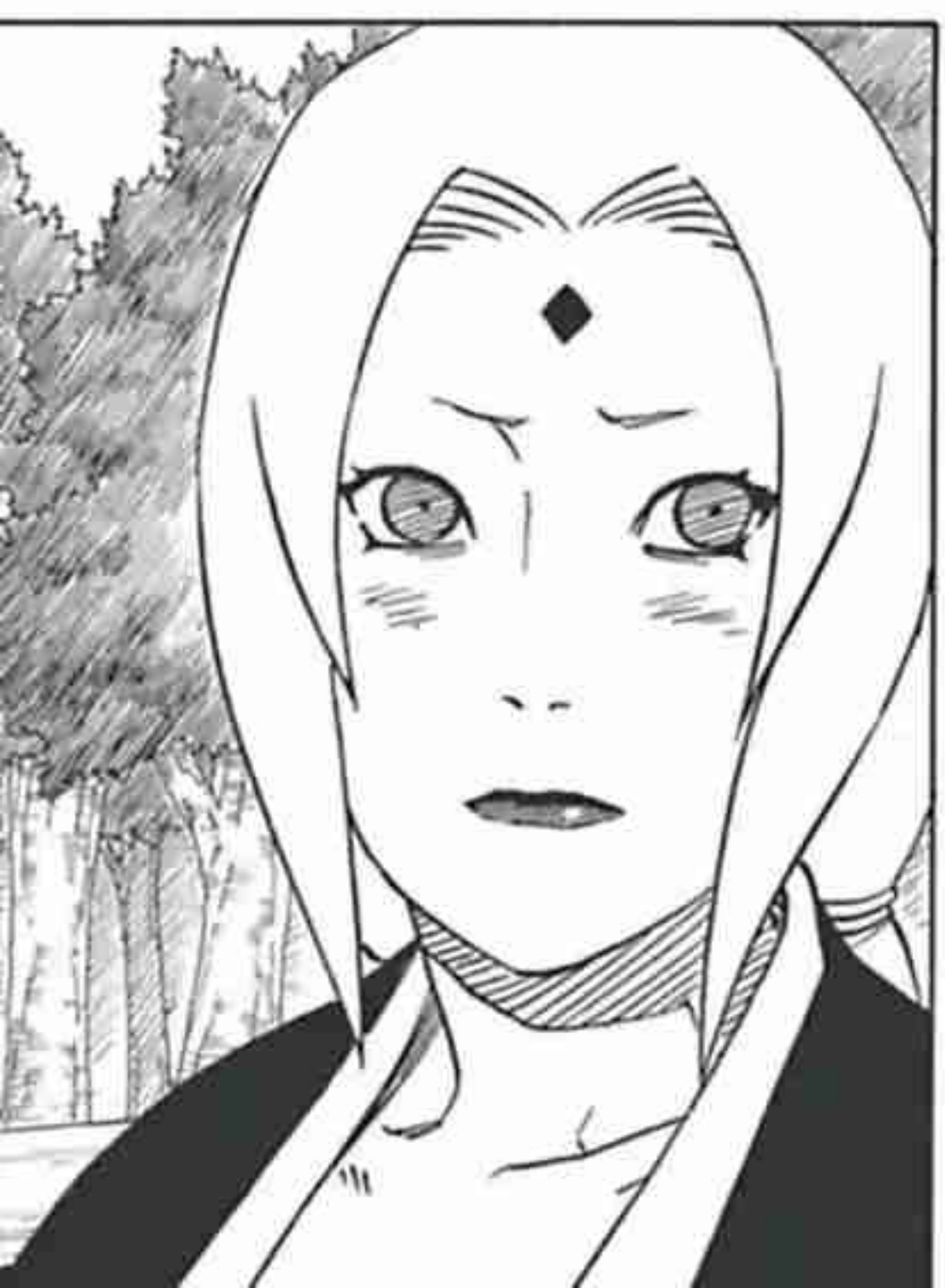
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I HAD ONE LAST WARNING FOR YOU...
?
SWISH

...

NOW... I REALLY OUGHT TO GET GOING.
TAP

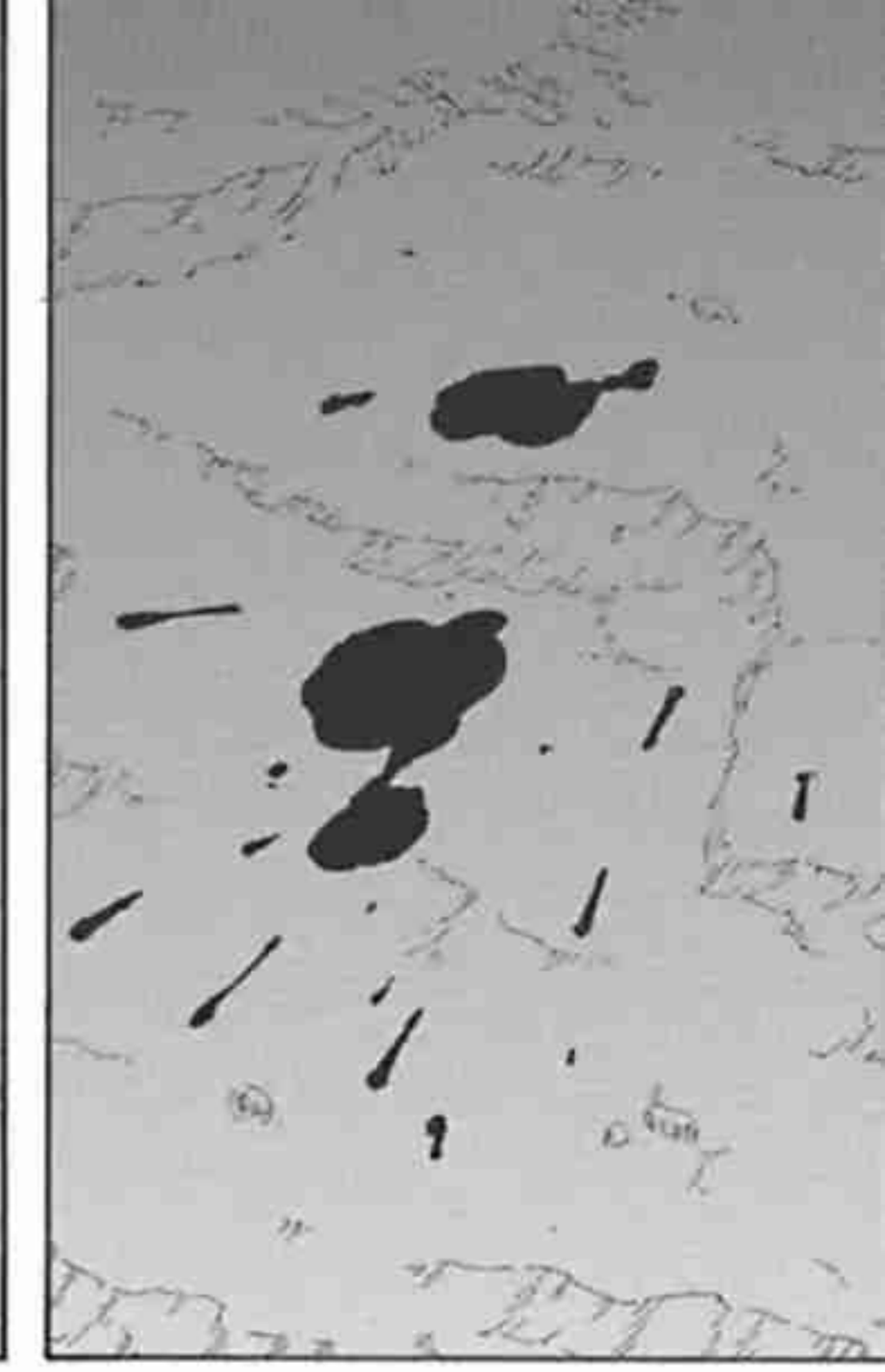

YES... I KNOW.

...BEWARE THE FOUN-DATION.



GOOD. GLAD YOU DO!
WELL, THEN...

SHUP



FLAP FLAP

!

YOU'VE... GOTTEN STRON-GER...

FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP

READ THIS WAY
WE'LL SETTLE THIS THERE.
MEET ME AT THE UCHIHA HIDEOUT. ALONE.
PLIP PLOP PLIP...
VOOSH
AAAH
GLOP

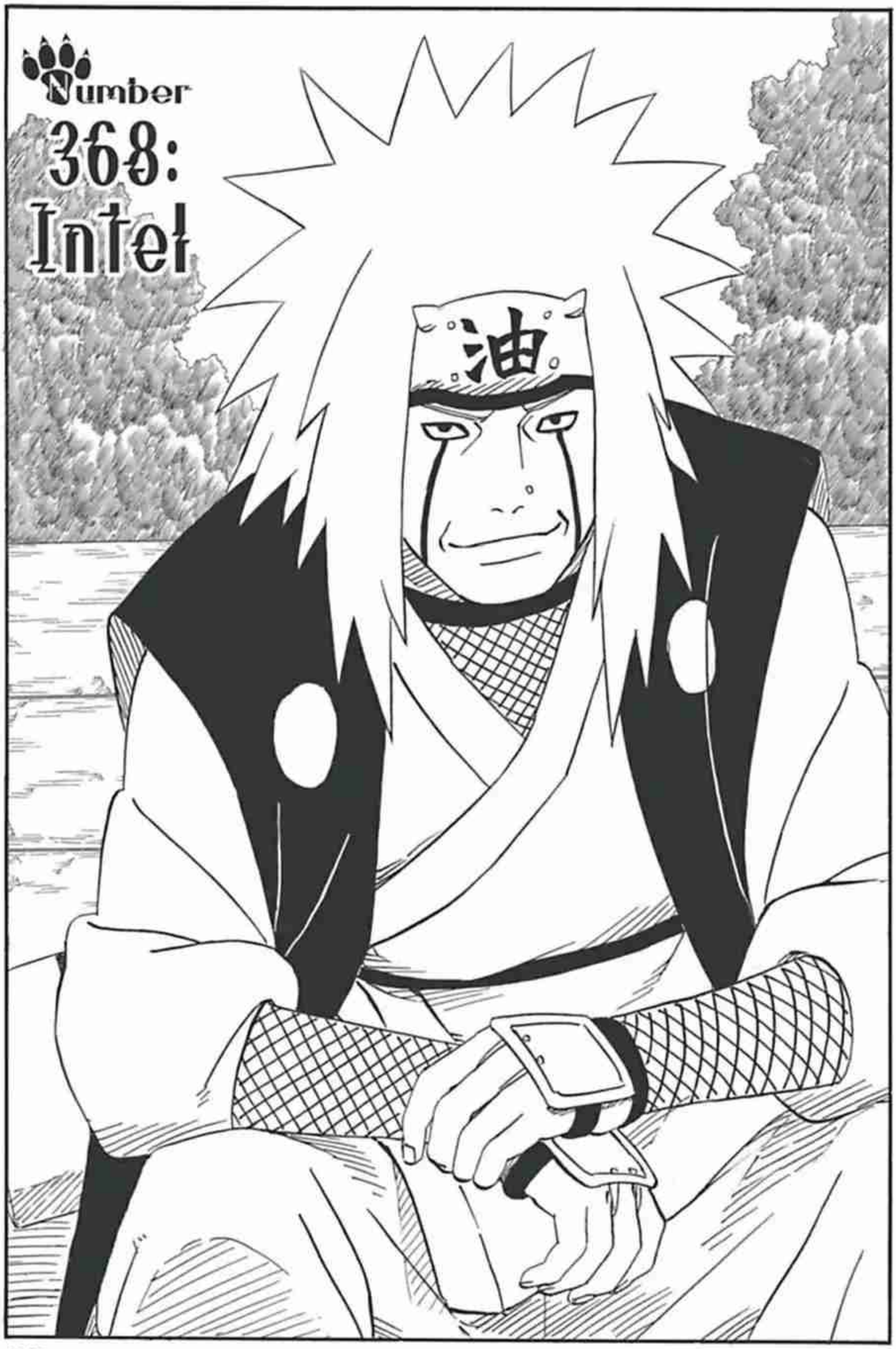
SQUELCH
ZWOO...
SPLASH
EXCEPTIONALLY EASILY, IN FACT...
INFILTRATION ACCOMPLISHED...
WHISH
VOOSH

VOOSH
...TOO EASILY, PER-HAPS?

SOMEONE HAS CIRCUM-VENTED MY RAIN.
FROM THE FEEL OF HIS CHAKRA... HE'S A THREAT...
WHAT IS IT?

!

NARUTO


Number
368:
Intel
油

FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER

FLAP

SASUKE!

WHOSSH

FEATHERS ...?

WE GOT WORRIED.

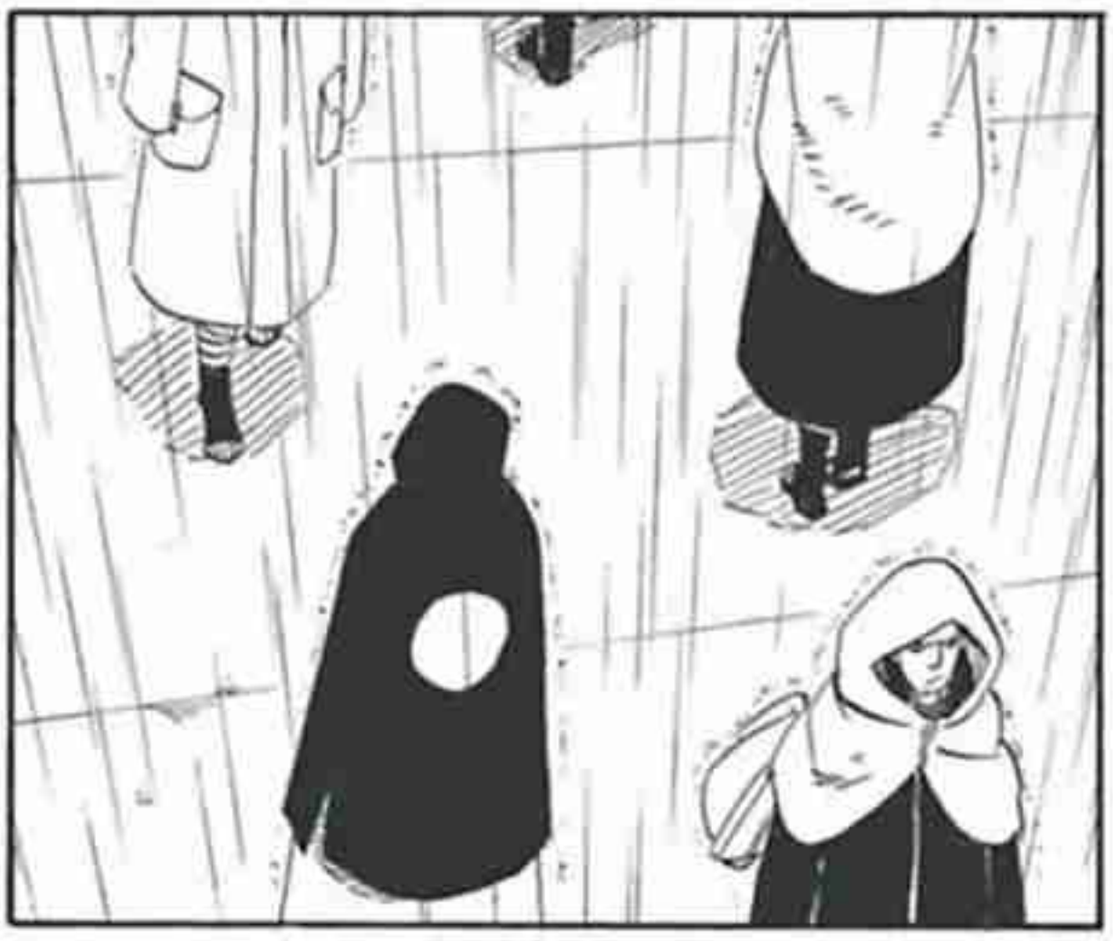
KARIN SAID SHE SENSED ANOTHER CHAKRA HERE.

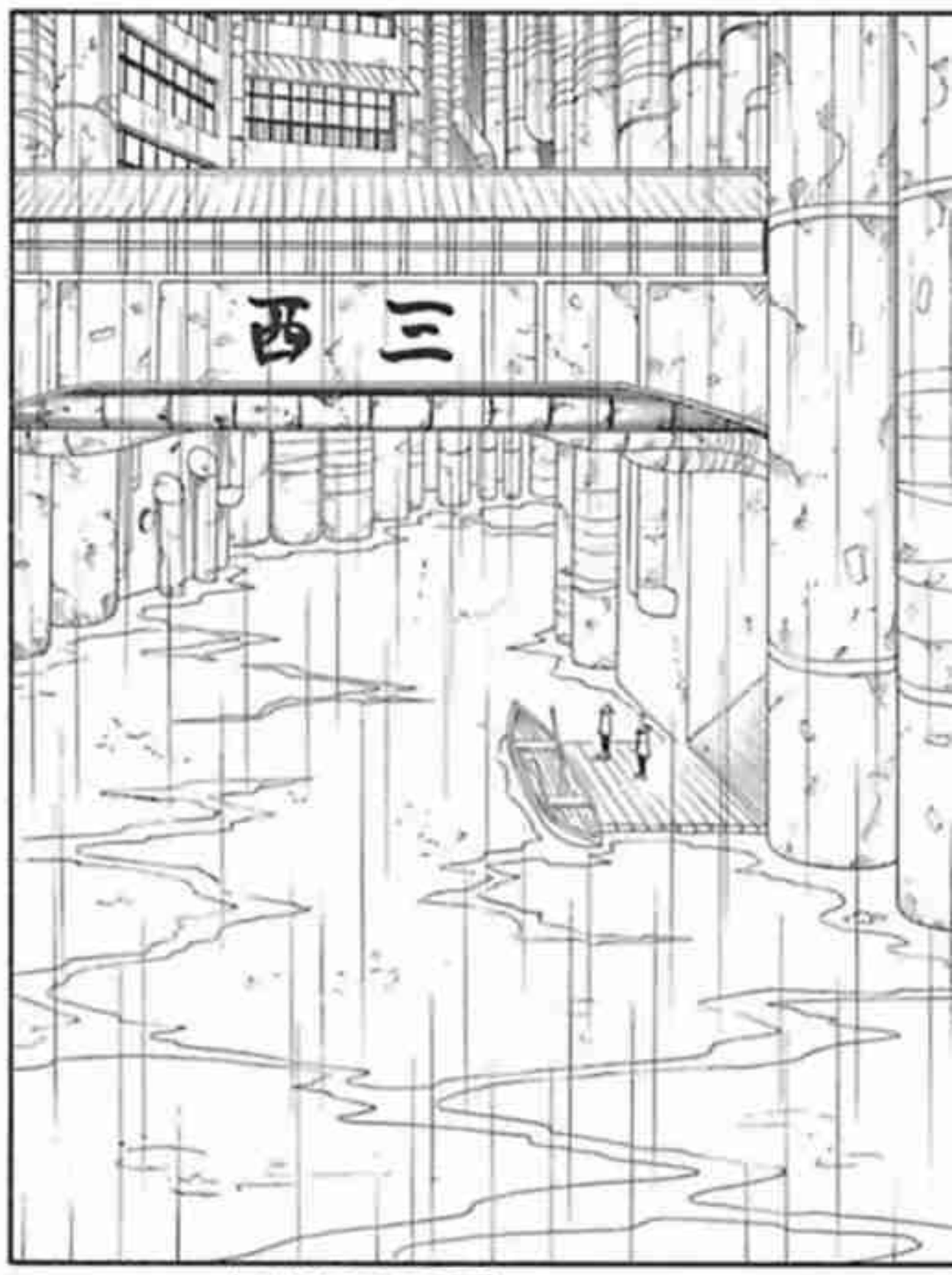
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU ALL NOT TO MOVE UNTIL I GAVE THE ORDER.

WE'RE LEAV-ING...

FOLLOW ME.

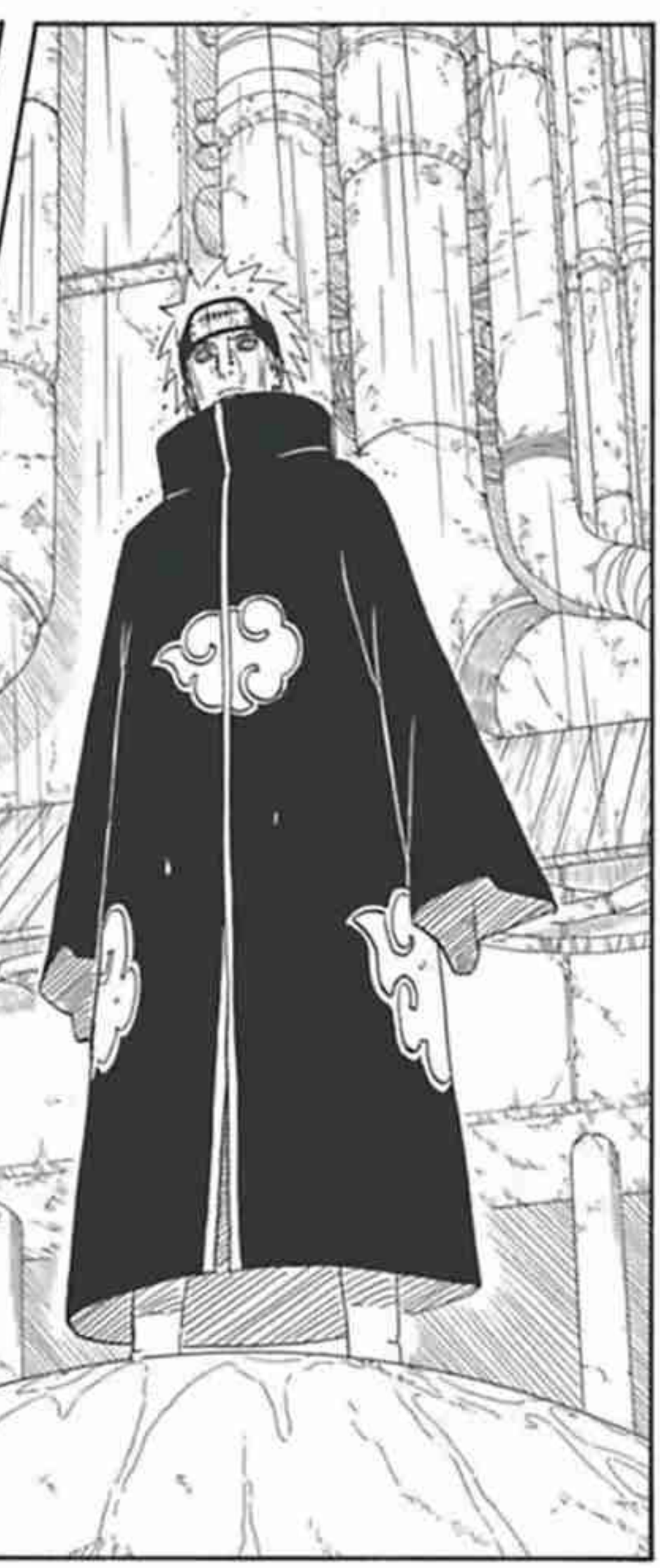
KAUNCH





(WEST THREE)

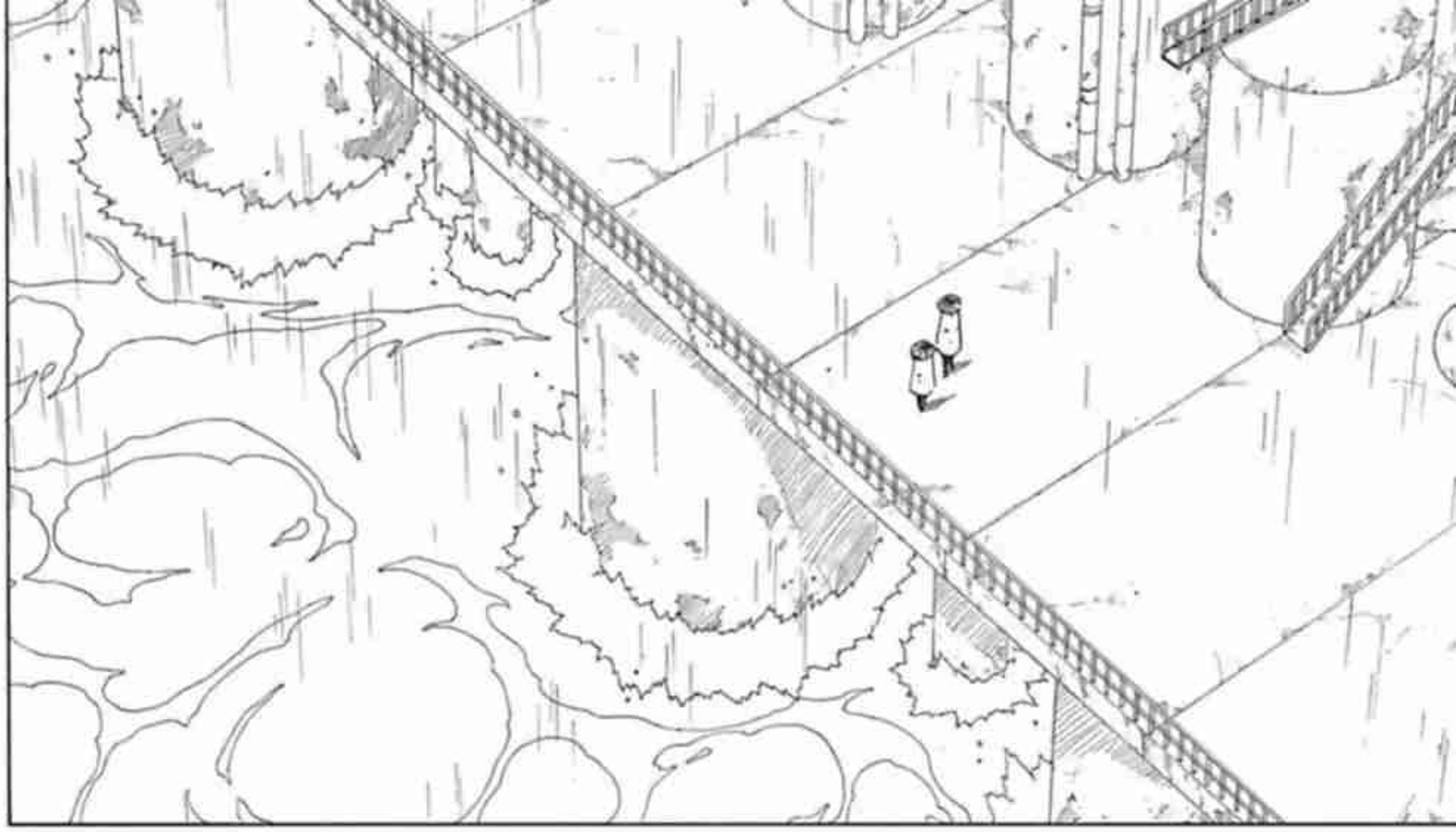
KONAN... WHEN I STOP THE RAIN, FERRET OUT THE INTRUDER WITH YOUR JUTSU.
OF COURSE.



FWP-
FWP

ON IT.

LET'S DO THIS.
KI AP



(GRAND OPENING, CLUB TOAD)

KLAK
WELCOME!

WE'RE IN LUCK.

(FROG)

KLATTER
TODAY'S NOT SUNDAY, RIGHT?

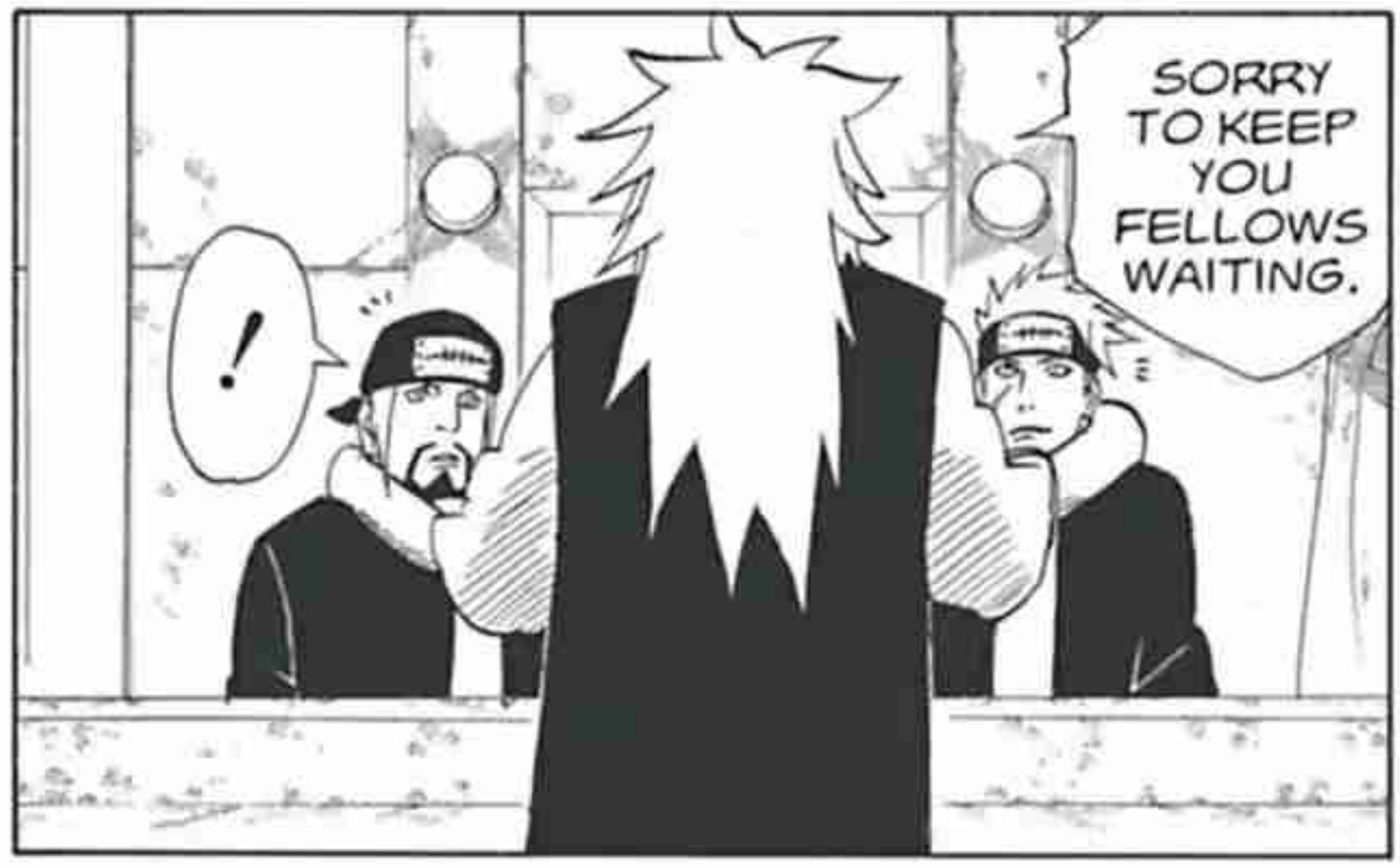
VOOSH
GIVE US SAKE AND SOME SNACKS.
JUST TWO.

BUT FOR IT TO RAIN ON A SUNDAY?
THAT'S UNUSUAL...

MAYBE HE'S OFF IN SOME OTHER NATION...?
SOMETHING MUST BE GOING ON WITH LORD PAIN.
THUNK

SO QUIT WHINING!
HEY...!
LORD PAIN GIVES SO MUCH OF HIMSELF FOR ALL OF US IN THIS CITY.

MAYBE... BUT THIS MUCH RAIN...
MAYBE IT'S A MATTER THAT REQUIRES QUITE A BIT OF POWER.


!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU FELLOWS WAITING.

GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

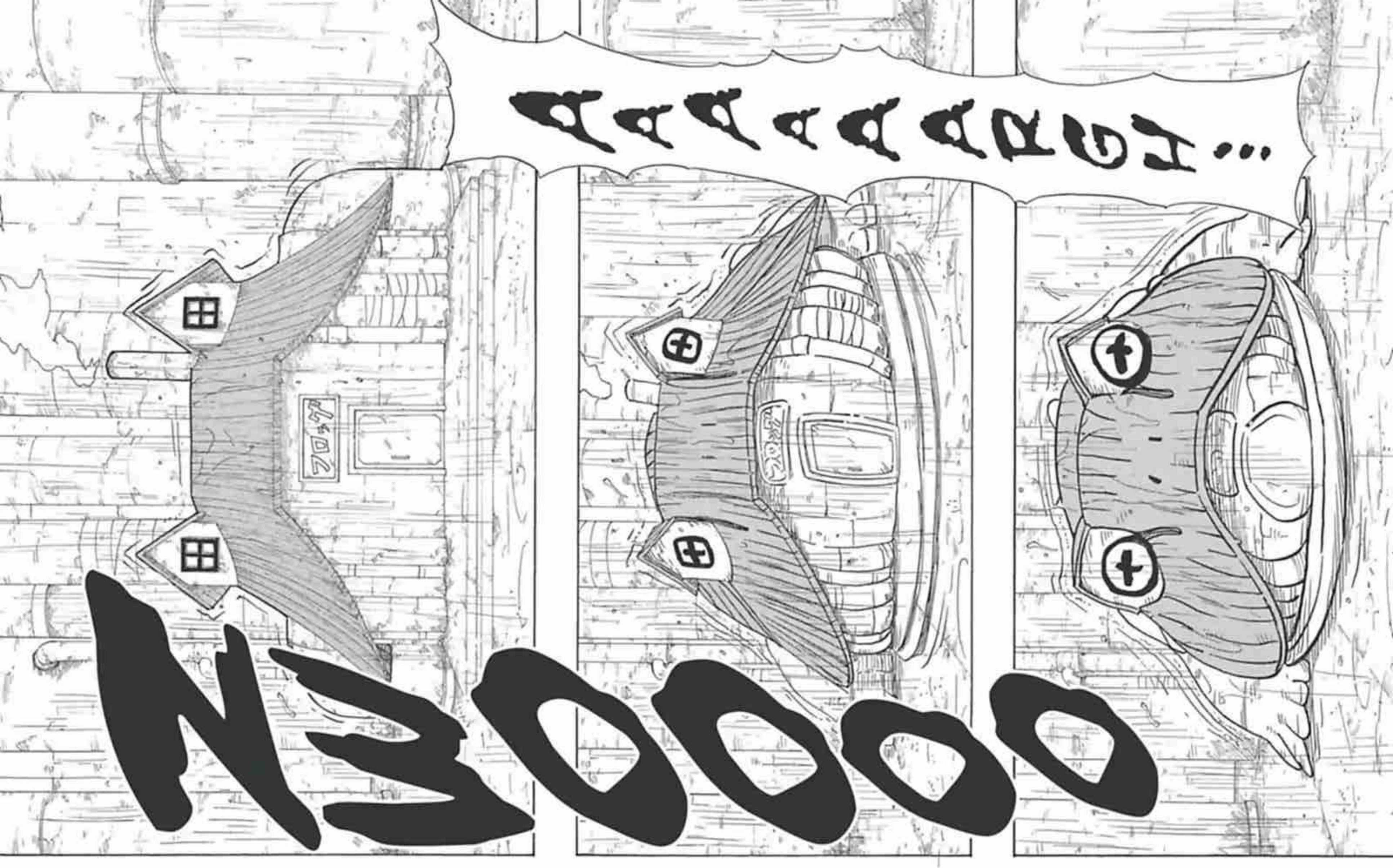
TODAY, WE HAVE OUR GRAND OPENING SPECIAL...

BUT YOU HAVEN'T SERVED US ANYTHING YET?!
HUH...?

YOU TWO ARE INCREDIBLY LUCKY.

WHOA! REALLY?

TMP
KLATTER
KLATTER
THUP
BO
油
OF
HUH!? WHO ARE YOU?!
油
I'M THE ONE WHO'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS.
AND I'VE GOT LOTS OF THEM...


ドクドクドクドクドクドクドク…
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン

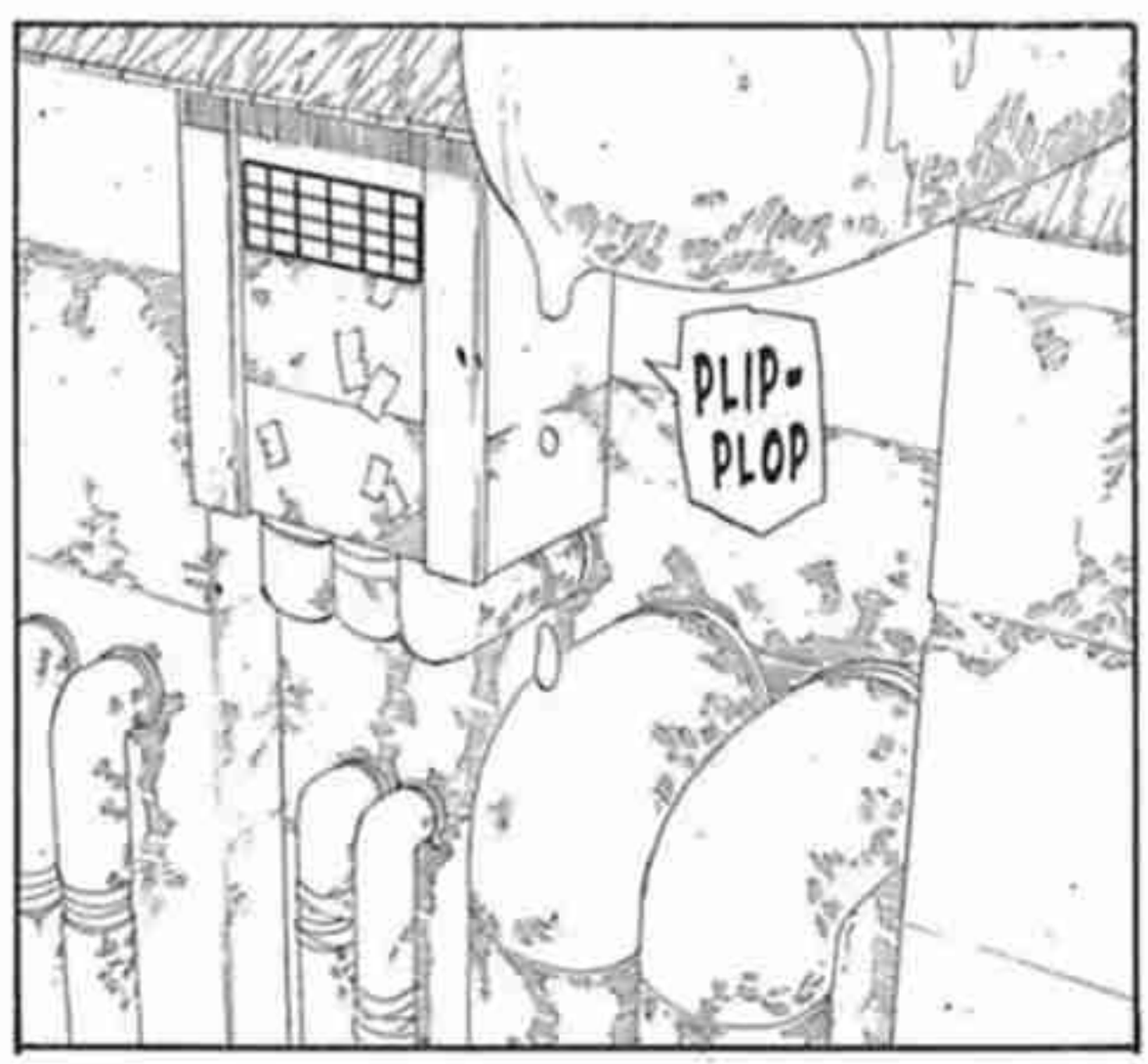
READ THIS WAY
ZOOOOO
POInK
POInK
SPLASH!
OOSH!

玄
白
清
朱

青失灰
幻想
白象牙
潤朱人
危

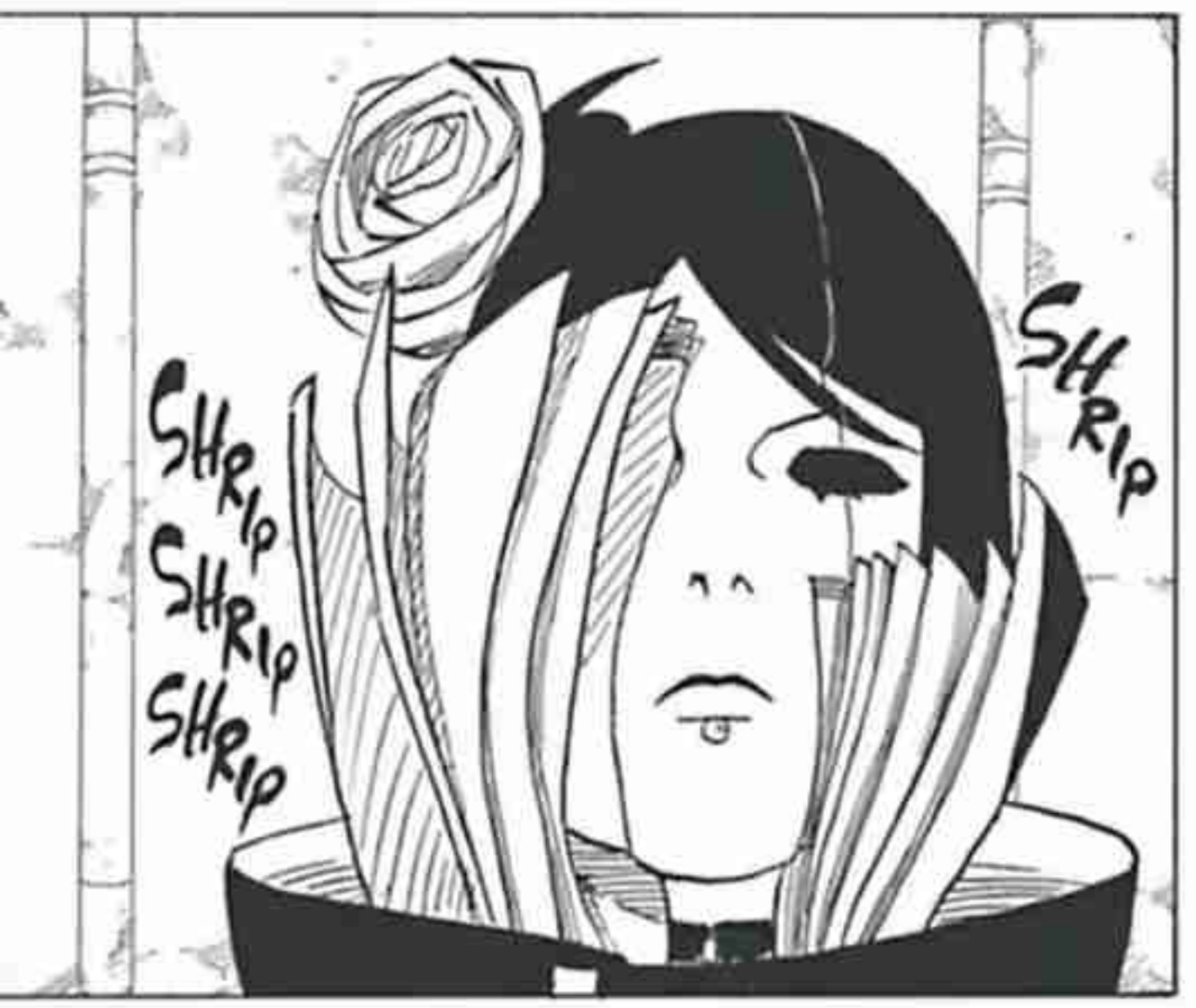
青失灰
幻想
白象牙
潤朱人
危

青失灰
幻想
潤朱人
危

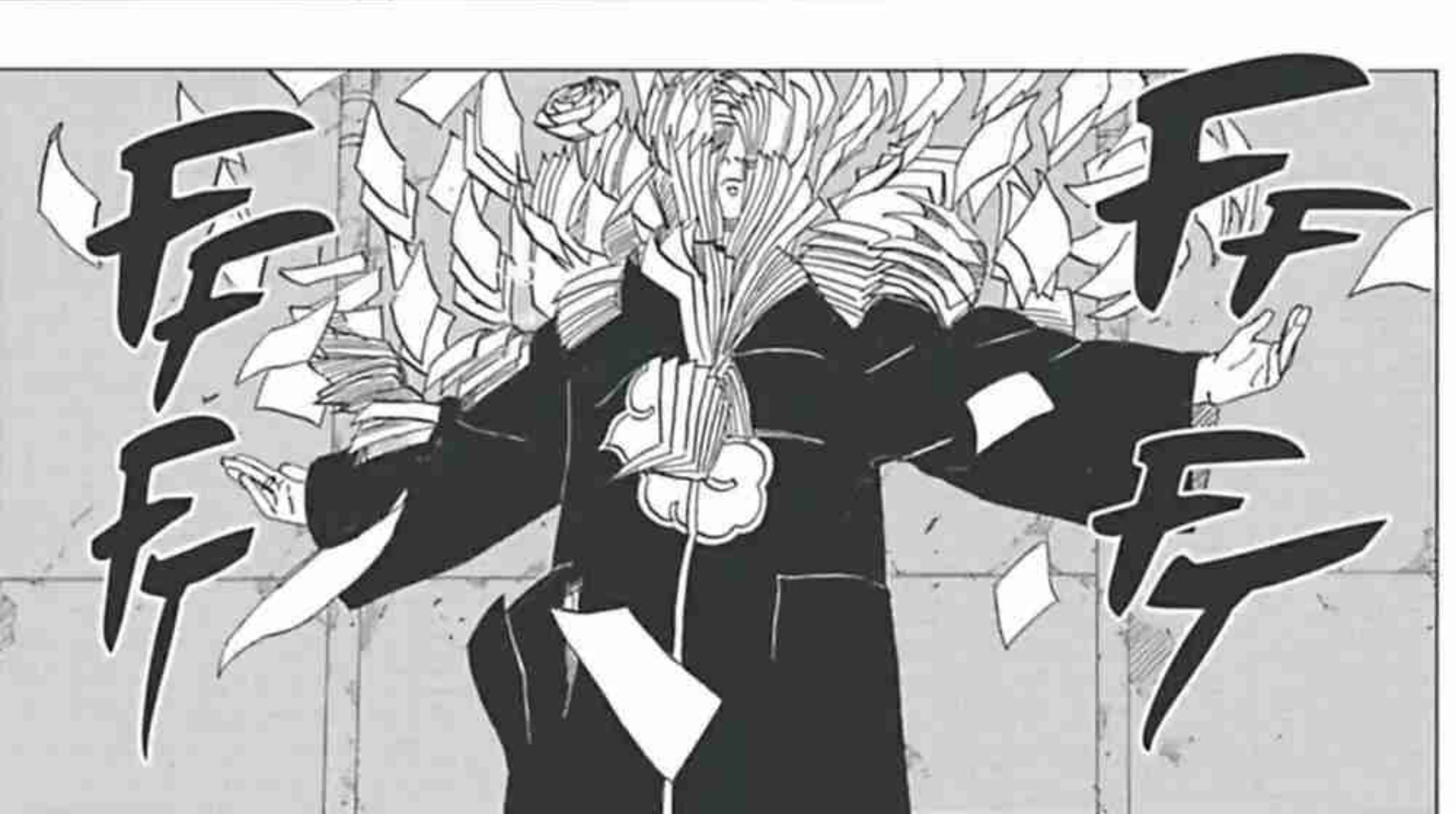

PLIP-
PLOP

ON IT.

DO IT, KONAN. NOW...


SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP

FFFT


FFFFFFFFFFFF

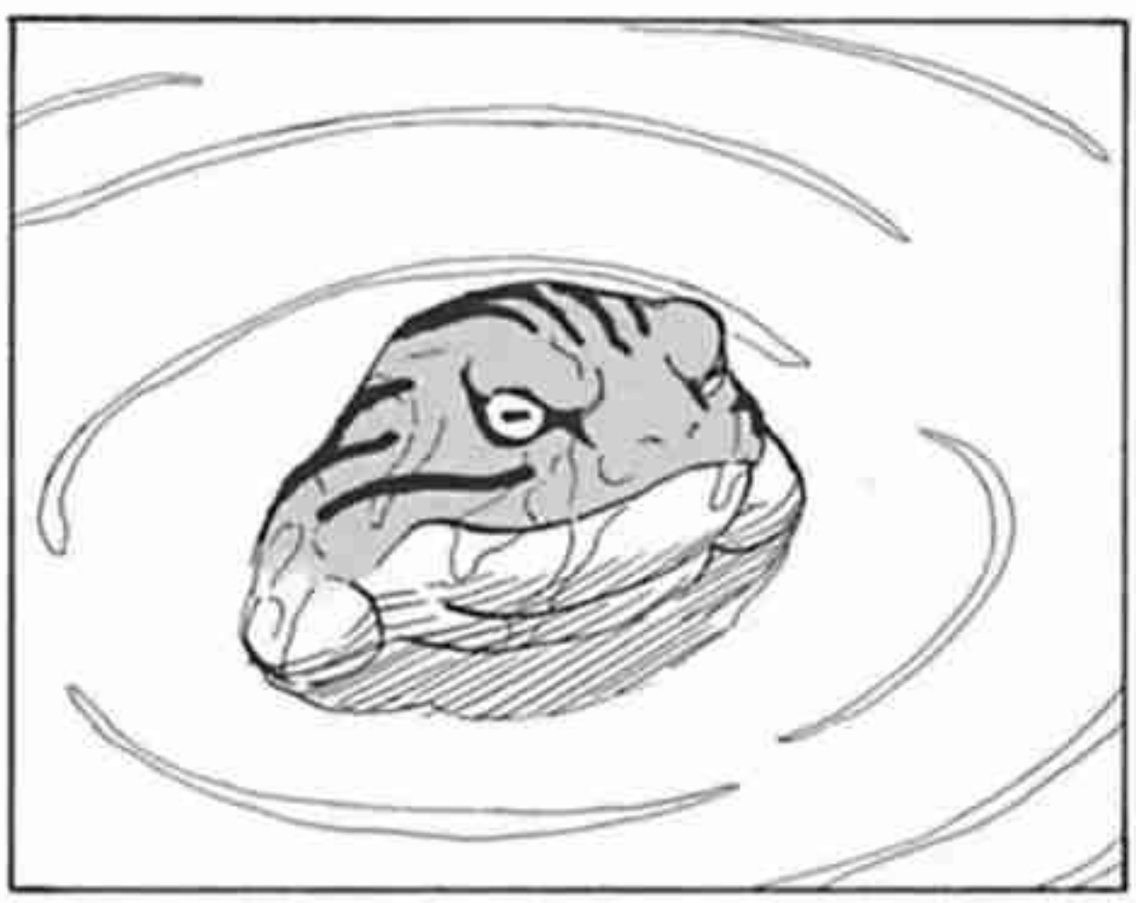
WHOOO SH

READ THIS WAY
FFFT
FFFT
FFFT
FFFT

...YOU MUST BE SHINOBI-UNDER-LINGS, BY THE LOOK OF YOU-NO?
FROM THE WAY YOU WERE TWIRLING THOSE KUNAI KNIVES...

NOW, THEN...
TMP

GAH...!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?!



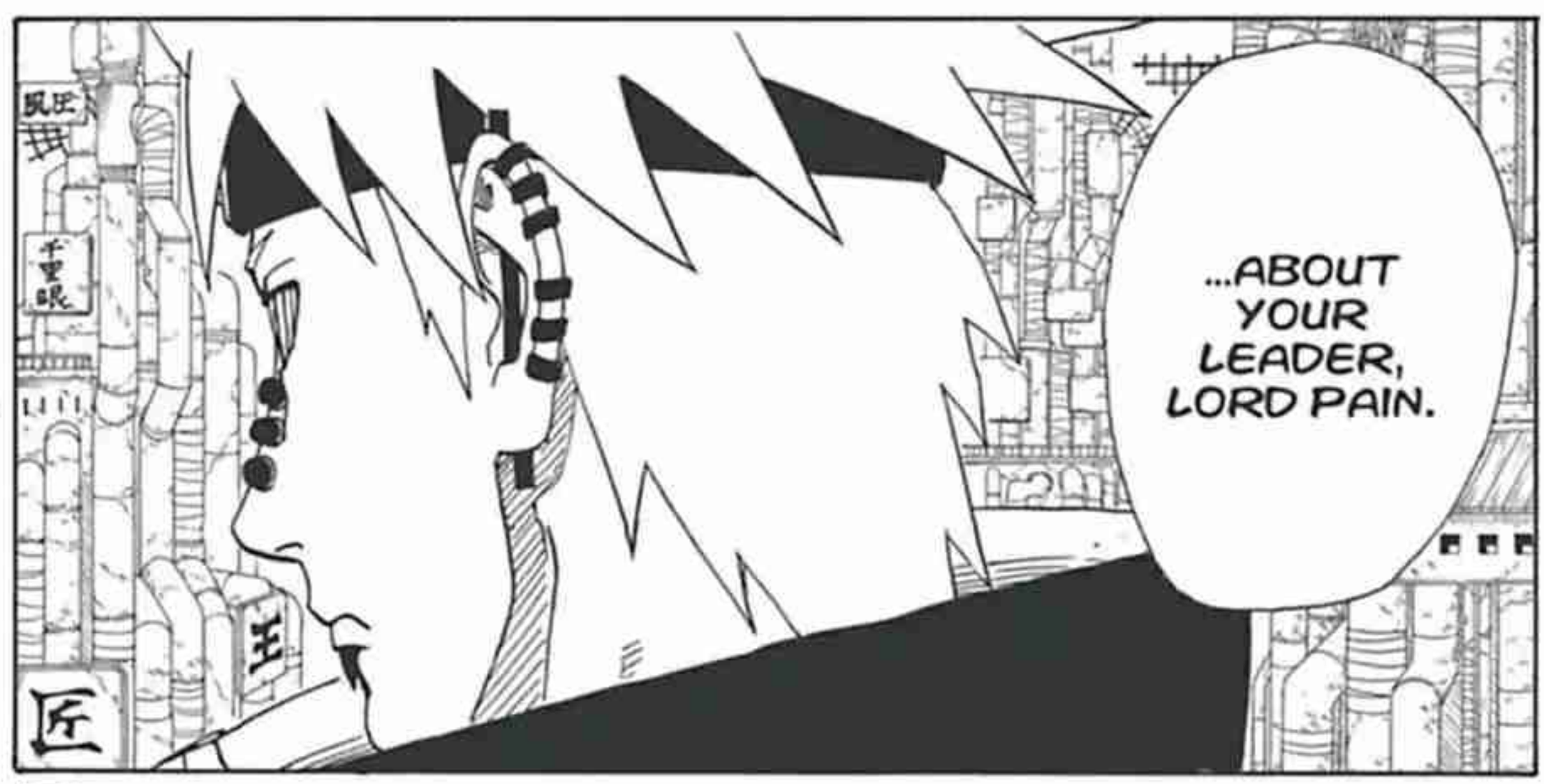
YOU'RE INSIDE THE STOMACH OF A TOAD.

...DIDN'T I?
SWISH
I TOLD YOU I'LL BE THE ONE ASKING QUESTIONS...

WHO... WHAT ARE YOU?!

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE FROM LAUGHING TOO MUCH, YOU BETTER ANSWER ALL OF MY QUES-TIONS...
TICK-LING! WHAT ELSE ?

WHAT'S THAT FEATHER FOR?
...


...ABOUT YOUR LEADER, LORD PAIN.

NARUTO

Number 369: Regarding Pain

GYA-HA HA HA HA HA!

WHAT'S THAT?!

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO PLAY MY ACE AFTER ALL.
YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE EXCEPTIONALLY TENACIOUS.
HUF
HUF

...

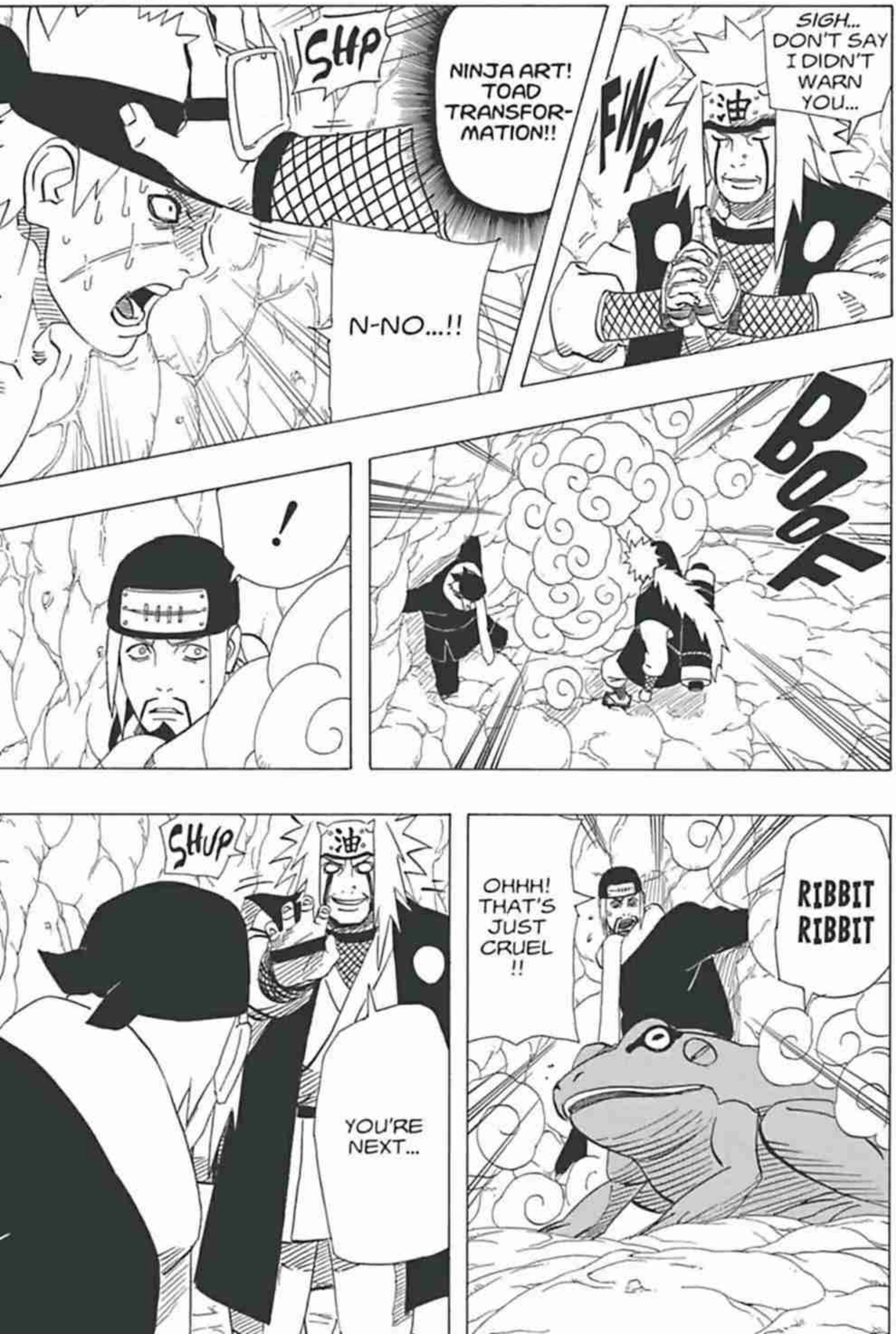
WELL, IF YOU ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO TALK, I SHALL USE MY JUTSU...
...TO FLOG YOU INTO FROGS!

...
...
...

FLOG ... FROG ...
GET IT?
G...

...

GYA-HA HA HA HA HA HA!


SHP
NINJA ART! TOAD TRANSFOR-MATION!!
N-NO...!!
FWO
SIGH... DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU...
!
BOOF
SHUP
YOU'RE NEXT...
OHHH! THAT'S JUST CRUEL !!
RIBBIT RIBBIT

MUTTER...

...IT IS SAID THAT LORD PAIN... RESIDES IN THE TALLEST TOWER TO THE WEST...

...BUT NO ONE HAS EVER REALLY SEEN HIM UP CLOSE...
...AND SOME CLAIM THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN EXIST.
IT IS SAID HE IS OF DEMON WIND CLAN LINEAGE...

IN THIS CITY, LORD PAIN IS LIKE A GOD.
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER HE EXISTS OR NOT... HE IS ALWAYS WATCHING OVER AND PROTECTING US.

...SO DON'T LIE!
I WALKED AROUND A BIT EARLIER, BUT EVERYONE I PASSED WAS SINGING HIS PRAISES...

SO WHY HIDE HIMSELF FROM EVEN HIS CLOSEST FOLLOW-ERS?
BUT HE IS YOUR LEADER, RIGHT?

FESTIVAL FUNCTIONS, SPEECHES, ORDER ISSUANCES, THEY'RE ALL HANDLED BY PROXIES AND MESSENGERS ...

YOU...
YOU'RE NOT AN OLD AME-GAKURE REMNANT, ARE YOU?
SO WHO ARE YOU?

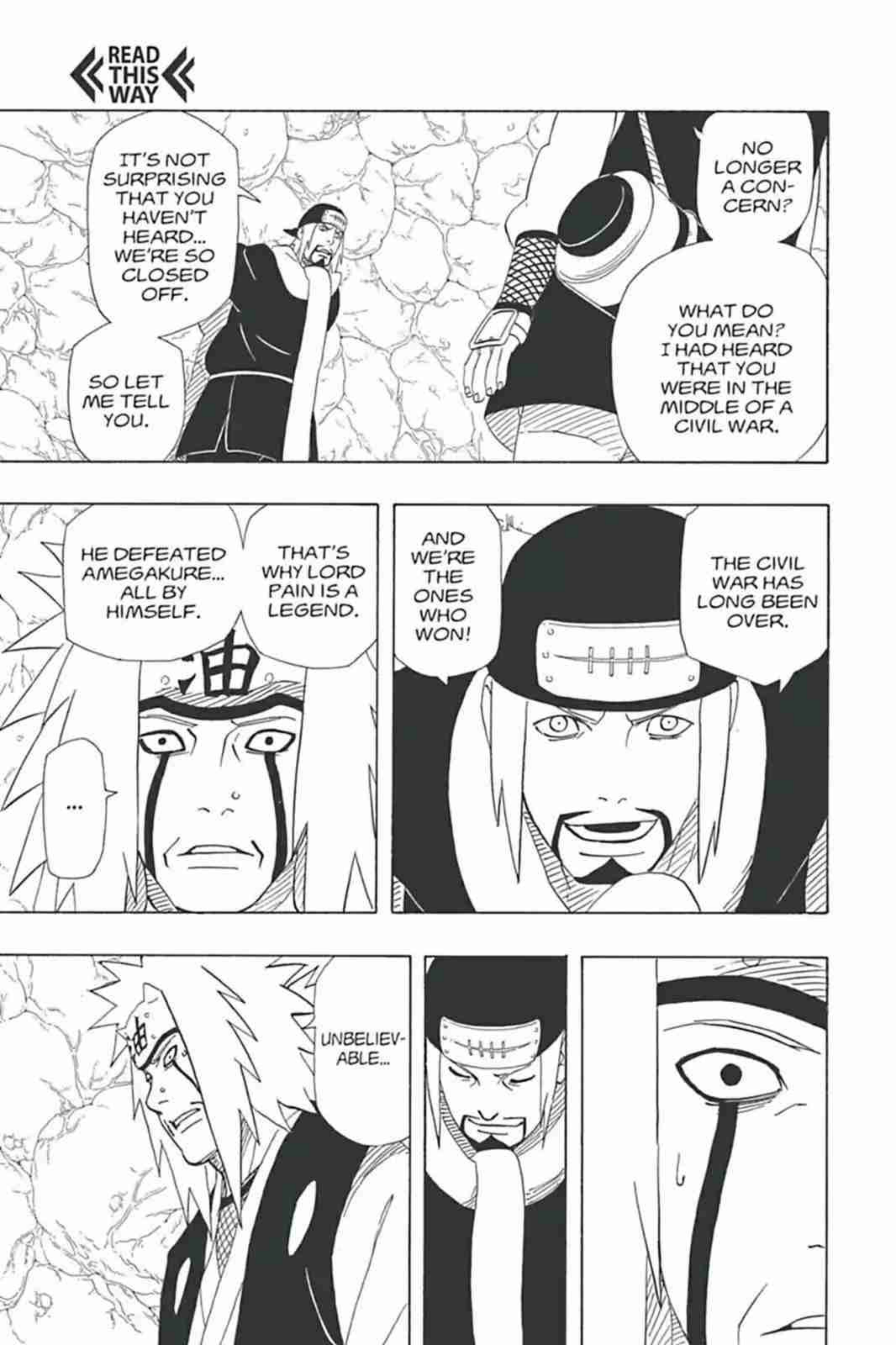
PRE-CISELY FOR SITUA-TIONS LIKE THESE...

I SEE...

YOU'RE AN OUT-SIDER, THEN ...
HEH... YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT OLD AME-GAKURE REM-NANTS?
NEVER MIND WHO I AM.

BUT IT'S NO LONGER A CONCERN. THE ONLY ONES WHO MANAGE TO FIND THEIR WAY IN NOW ARE LUCKY FOREIGNERS SUCH AS YOU.
UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, ORIGINAL AMEGAKURE SHINOBI WERE STILL SNEAKING BACK IN AND GOING AFTER LORD PAIN EVERY CHANCE THEY COULD GET.


READ THIS WAY
IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT YOU HAVEN'T HEARD... WE'RE SO CLOSED OFF.
SO LET ME TELL YOU.
NO LONGER A CON-CERN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I HAD HEARD THAT YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CIVIL WAR.
HE DEFEATED AMEGAKURE... ALL BY HIMSELF.
THAT'S WHY LORD PAIN IS A LEGEND.
...
AND WE'RE THE ONES WHO WON!
THE CIVIL WAR HAS LONG BEEN OVER.
UNBELIEV-ABLE...

...THERE TRULY WERE NO SHINOBI THAT DIDN'T KNOW THE NAME OF THE PREVIOUS AMEGAKURE LEADER, HANZO OF THE GIANT SALAMANDER...!

NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL THIS PAIN MIGHT BE...

I TOLD YOU!
NO ONE KNOWS!!

WHAT IS HIS SPE-CIALTY?
油
SO HOW DID PAIN DEFEAT HIM?

JIRAIYA, STOP!!
WE CAN STILL FIGHT!!
WE DON'T WANT YOUR SYMPA-THY!

THERE-FORE, I SHALL LET YOU THREE LIVE.
I PREDICT KONOHAGAKURE SHALL EMERGE VICTORIOUS FROM THIS BATTLE.

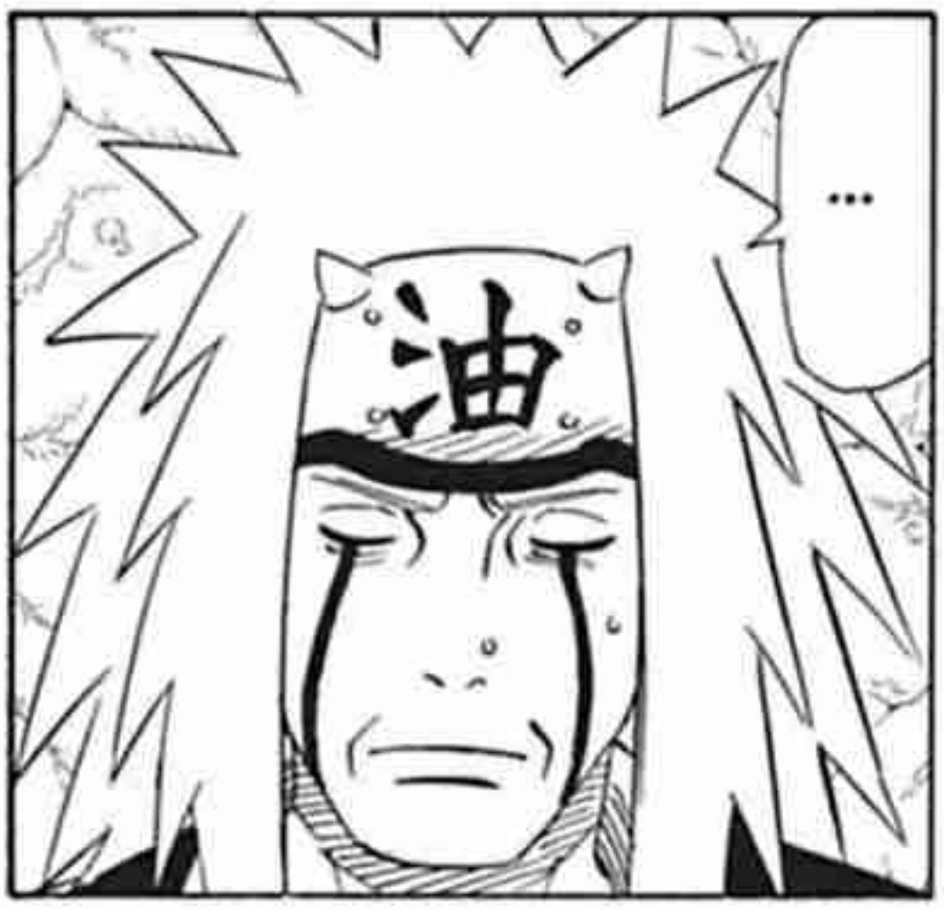
...YOU SURVIVED EVEN THIS BATTLE-GROUND...

YOU THREE ARE VERY STRONG...

I, HANZO...

...HEREBY CHRISTEN YOU THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI OF KONOHA.

...

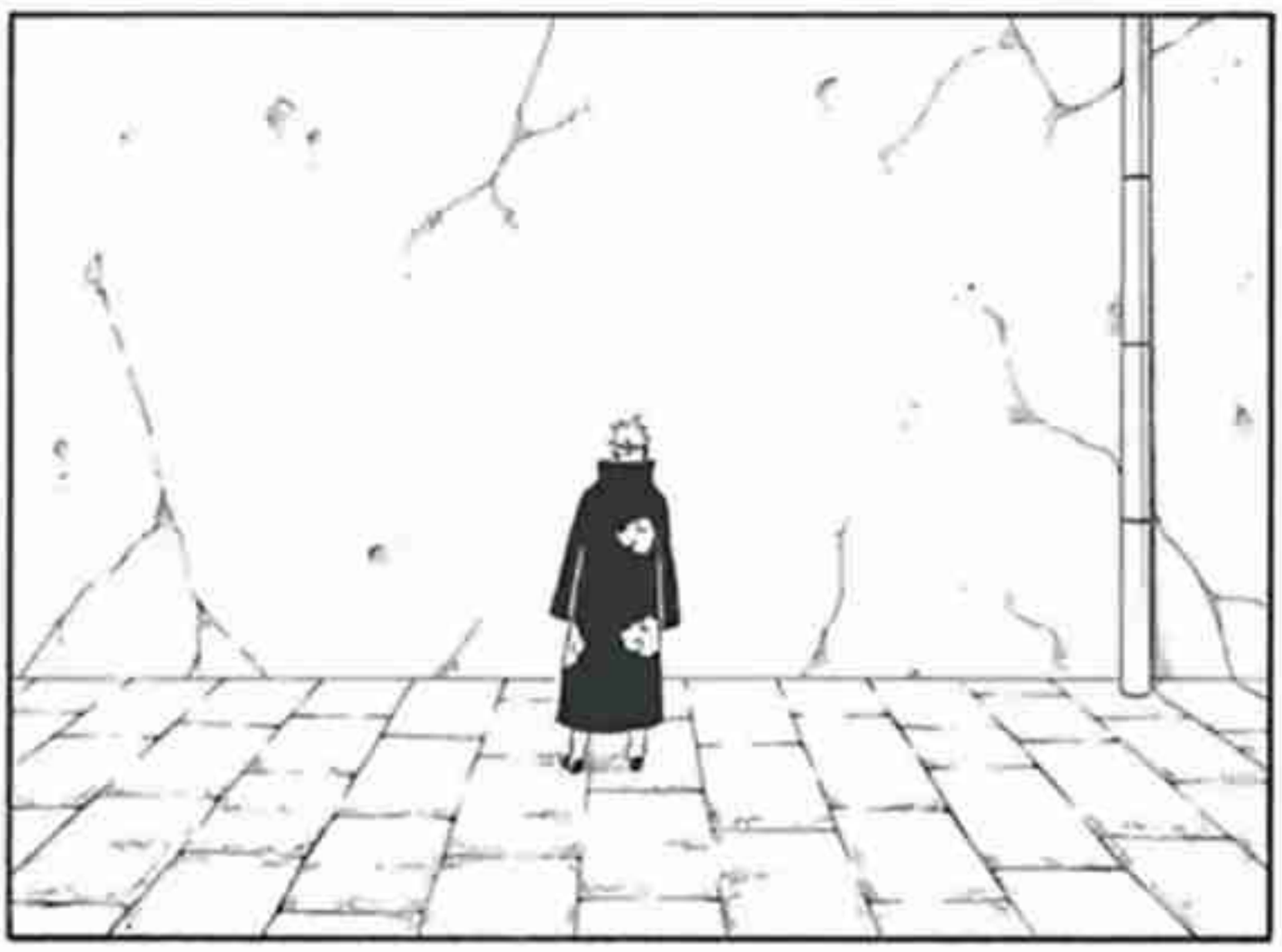


IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR LIVES... I WOULD KNOW YOUR NAMES...

READ THIS WAY
...BUT THAT IS NOT WHY LORD PAIN IS TO BE FEARED.
HE WIELDS FORMIDABLE JUTSU...
HEH HEH... IT WAS A GOD-LIKE DEED.
UNBELIEVABLE... THAT HE COULD TAKE HANZO DOWN BY HIMSELF.
WHAT IS TRULY AWE-INSPIRING IS HIS...
...MERCILESS HEART OF STEEL.
?
油
HE HAS SYSTEMATICALLY ELIMINATED ALL WHO THREATEN OR QUESTION HIS VISION.
?
油

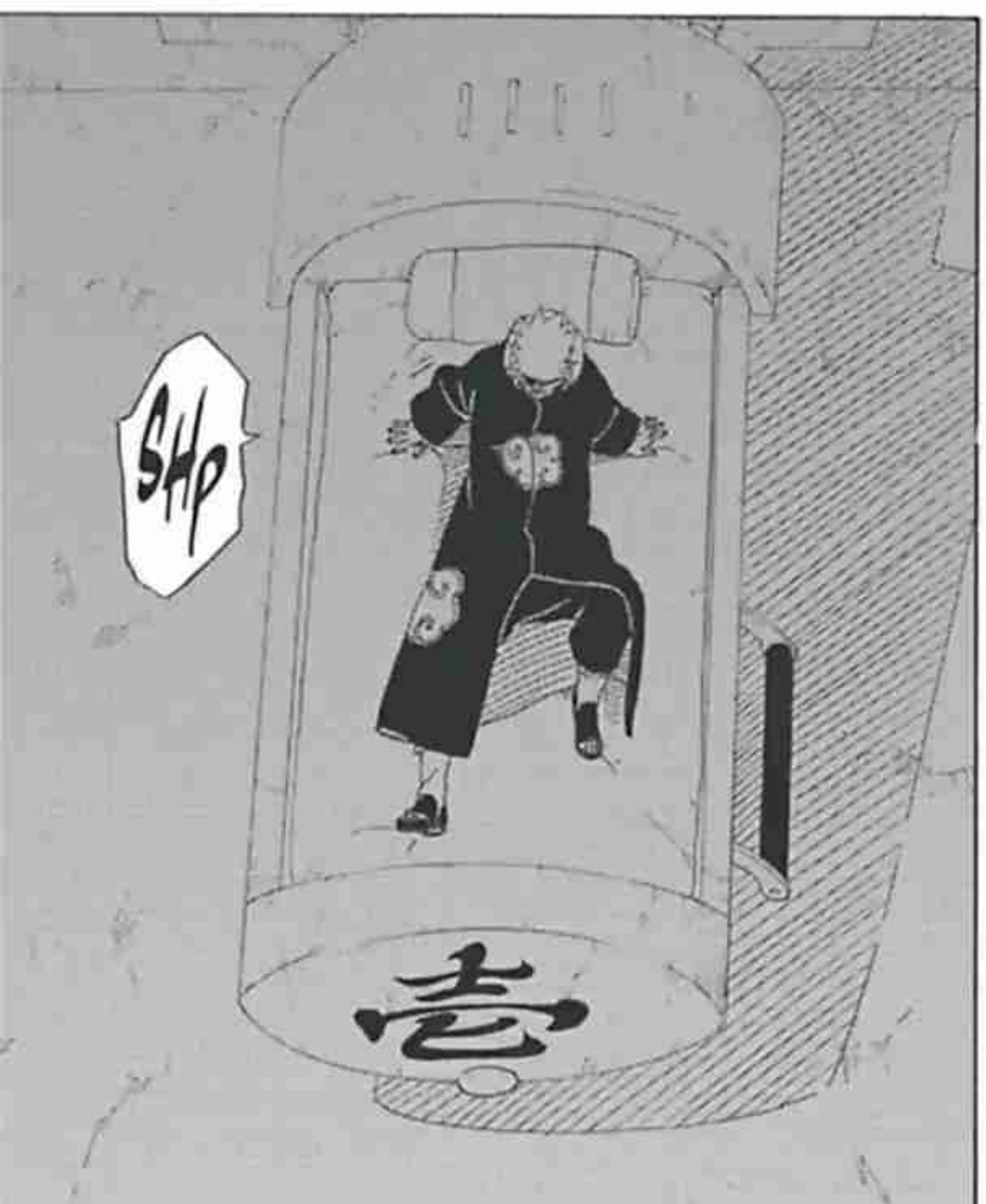
...EVEN DISTANT RELATIVES AND COLLEAGUES, DOWN TO THE LAST INFANT.

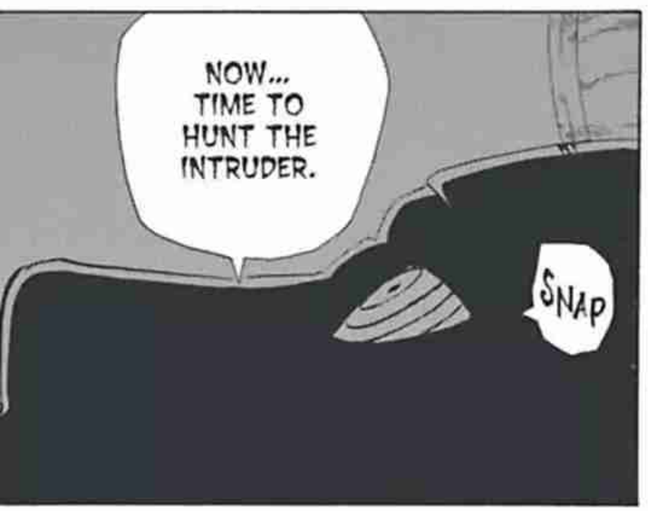
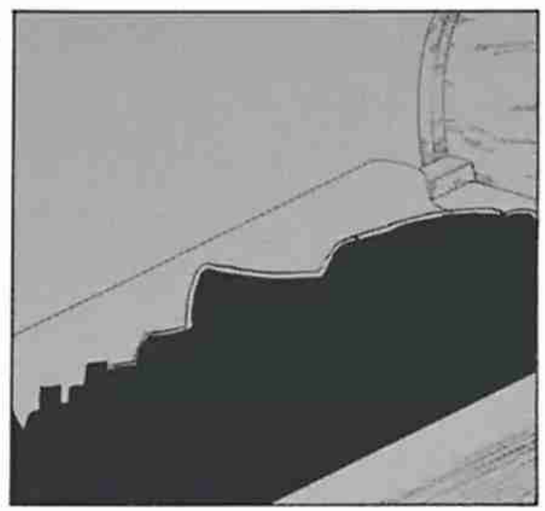
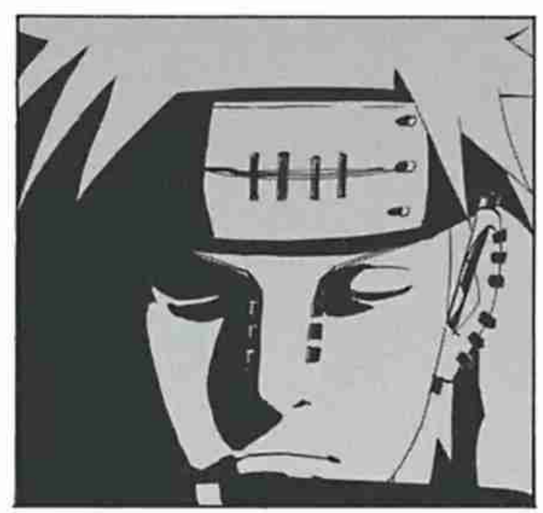
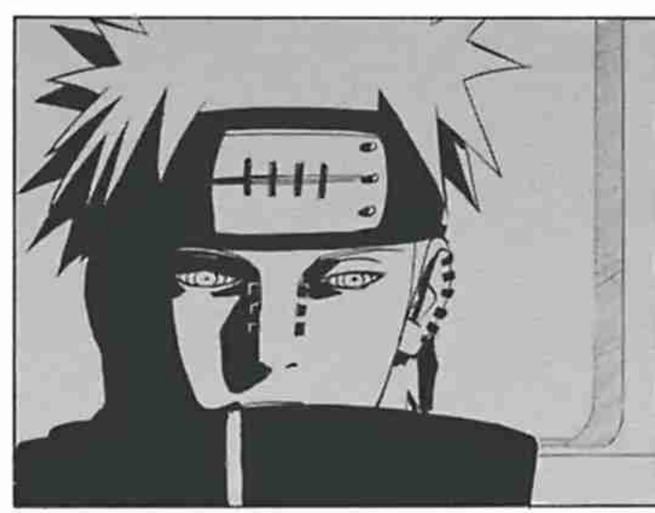
HE DIDN'T JUST DESTROY HANZO. HE ALSO KILLED HIS PARENTS, WIFE, AND CHILDREN...



READ THIS WAY

WHOOSH




NOW... TIME TO HUNT THE INTRUDER.
SNAP